Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-242
Monday
17 December 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-242 17 December 1990

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Warns of New 'Zionist Crime' in Jerusalem *[INA]* 1
PLO Issues Statement *[Algiers VOP]* 1
'Arafat Denunciation of Kuwait Occupation Denied *[Algiers VOP]* 1
'Arafat Claims Loss of $10 Billion From Crisis *[Rabat MAP]* 1
'Arafat Meets Envoys to Tunisia on UN Talks *[Tunis Radio]* 2
PFLP-GC Leader Ahmad Jibril Interviewed *[Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 8 Dec]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

President Makes Unscheduled Visit to Beirut *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Official Sources Qualify Algiers Gulf Initiative *[APS]* 5
Islamic Fundamentalists Seek Hamrouche Ouster *[Paris International]* 5

Mauritania

Information Minister Denies Torture Allegations *[Libreville Africa No. 1]* 5

Morocco

Last-Minute Talks Fail To Avert General Strike *[MAP]* 6
Deaths in Strike-Related Violence Noted *[Paris International]* 6
Government Denies Deaths *[Rabat TV]* 6
Government Reports Light Response to Strike Call *[Rabat TV]* 7
Paris Radio Details Army Shooting in Fes 7
French TV Satellite Relay Cut *[Paris Radio]* 7
Information Director Denies Weapons Use in Fes *[Paris International]* 7
Government Reports Two Deaths in Clashes *[AFP]* 8
Prime Minister To Address House of Representatives *[Rabat TV]* 8

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives for Two-Day Visit *[WAKH]* 9

Kuwait

Premier Disdains Negotiations With Iraq *[Riyadh TV]* 9

Oman

Algerian President Bendjedid Pays Two-Day Visit 9
Arrives 14 Dec *[Muscat Radio]* 9
Meets With Sultan Qabus *[Muscat TV]* 10
Concludes Visit *[Muscat TV]* 10
Saudi Defense Minister Pays Two-Day Visit *[Muscat Radio]* 11

Iranian Military Delegation Arrives for Visit *[WAKH]* 11
Iran's Velayati Arrives in Muscat for Visit *[Muscat TV]* 11
Delivers Rafsanjani Message *[Muscat TV]* 11
UK Envoy Delivers Major Message to Qabus *[WAKH]* 11
State Minister Leaves for Doha With Sultan's Message *[WAKH]* 11

Qatar

Omani State Minister Arrives in Doha *[WAKH]* 11
Iran's Velayati Arrives on 'Short Visit' *[WAKH]* 11
Received by Heir Apparent *[WAKH]* 12
Meets With Amir *[WAKH]* 12
Concludes Visit, Departs *[WAKH]* 12

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Comments on Palestinian Cause *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Dec]* 12

United Arab Emirates

Saudi Defense Minister Continues Visit 13
Meets With President *[WAKH]* 13
More on Meeting *[Riyadh Radio]* 13
Concludes Visit, Departs *[WAKH]* 13
President Orders Urgent Help for USSR *[WAKH]* 13
Chief of Staff Meets French Air Force Chief *[WAKH]* 13

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Addresses Islamic Delegation 15 Dec *[INA]* 14
Reportage on Cancellation of 'Aziz Visit to U.S. 17
Cancellation Announced *[Amman TV]* 17
Date for Talks Discussed *[INA]* 17
'Harsh' U.S. Tone 'Unacceptable' *[Mainz TV]* 18
'Iraq Alone' Has Right To Set Date *[INA]* 18
Envoy Hints Iraq Might Negotiate Withdrawal *[AFP]* 18
U.S. To Pay 'Heavy Price' for Any Aggression *[INA]* 19
Assembly Speaker Says Danger of War 'Increased' *[Tokyo KYODO]* 19
Kuwait To Remain 'Eternal and Irreversible' *[INA]* 19
Citizens Born in 1957 Called Up To Army Service *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Foreign Diplomats Reportedly Leaving Baghdad *[Tokyo KYODO]* 20
Scientists Deny Report on Nuclear Potential *[ADN]* 20
Mubarak Urged To Reconsider 'Mortgaged' Position *[INA]* 20
'Aziz, 'Arafat Discuss U.S. Position at UN *[INA]* 21

ISRAEL

Shamir Returns From U.S., Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio, etc.]* 22
On U.S. Position on Deportations *[Jerusalem TV]* 22
Arens Signed Deportation Order 'Three Weeks Ago' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 24
Reportage on Aftermath of Yafo Murders 24
Rioting Jews Attack Arabs *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Police Control Rioting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Deportation Plans Alleged *[Amman Radio]* 24
Arab Cars Torched; 20 Arrested *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Four Hamas Activists Ordered Deported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Gaza Strip Sealed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Arens Consulted Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Minister Says Deportations 'Effective' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Senior Hamas Member Detained *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Navy Blockades Gaza *[THE JERUSALEM POST 16 Dec]* 26

Netanyahu on U.S. Reaction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Cabinet 'Determined' on Stronger Actions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Arens Explains Deportations *[Tel Aviv TV]* 28
Levi Meets With Senator Inouye *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Eytan Urges Deportations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Reportage on Planned Temple Mount Demonstration 29
Milo Discusses Strategy *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
'Massive Mobilization' Planned *[HA'ARETZ 16 Dec]* 30
Jerusalem Security Boosted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Correction to Shamir Interviewed on Meeting 30

JORDAN

Yasir 'Arafat Pays Official Visit to Amman 31
Arrival Statement *[Amman Radio]* 31
Confers With King Husayn *[Amman Radio]* 31
Stresses Linkage, Arab Solution *[Amman Radio]* 31
Attends Cultural Event *[Algiers VOP]* 32
Departure Statement *[Amman TV]* 32
King Husayn Interviewed on Gulf, U.S. Role *[Paris TV]* 32
U.S. 'Increasing Tension'; Saddam 'Ready' *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 15 Dec]* 33
U.S. Asked To 'Return' Crisis to Arabs *[AL-RA'Y 16 Dec]* 33
Israeli Deportations, U.S. 'Regret' Ridiculed *[AL-DUSTUR 17 Dec]* 34
'Disgust' at Soviet Security Council Conduct *[AL-DUSTUR 14 Dec]* 34
Prince Hasan Receives UNRWA's Giacomelli *[Amman Radio]* 35
House Member for Strikes, Foreign Withdrawal *[Amman Radio]* 35
Water Talks Called by Israel 'Rejected' *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Dec]* 35
EC Grants Aid for Water, Agricultural Projects *[PETRA-JNA]* 36
Police Thwart Attempt To Smuggle Flour *[AL-RA'Y 16 Dec]* 37
Islamic Students Disrupt Poet's Recital *[JORDAN TIMES 15 Dec]* 37

LEBANON

Reportage on Algerian President Bendjedid's Visit 38
Presidential Office Statement *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Meets With Al-Asad *[APS]* 38
Concludes Visit, Departs *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Israeli-Resistance Clashes Reported in South *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Three Reported Killed *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Two DFLP Men Killed in Attack on Lahd Patrol *[VOM]* 39

SYRIA

Algeria's Bendjedid Visits Damascus 40
APS Previews Agenda 40
Arrives 15 Dec *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Meets With Al-Asad *[Damascus TV]* 40
Presidents Meet Further *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Foreign Ministers Discuss Gulf *[Damascus TV]* 41
Benjedid Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Sends Cable Following Visit *[Damascus TV]* 41

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

11th Advisor Takes Oath of Office *[AFP]* 42
Parliamentary Elections Scheduled for 2 Mar *[Dhaka Radio]* 42
Nomination Deadline Set *[Dhaka Radio]* 42
Awami Leader Pledges To Avenge Father's Death *[AFP]* 42
Return of Exiled Politician Reported *[Dhaka Radio]* 42

Ershad Not Permitted To Attend Friday Prayers *[AFP]* 43
Envoy to Japan Recalled, Envoy to France Quits *[AFP]* 43

Iran

Mohtashemi Says Syria Will Not Fight in Gulf *[IRNA]* 43
Musavi-Ardebili Delivers Friday Prayers *[Tehran Radio]* 44
President Discusses Talks With Algeria's Bendjedid *[Tehran TV]* 46
Concludes Talks With Bendjedid *[APS]* 46
Algerian Foreign Minister Promotes Arab Dialogue *[APS]* 46
Velayati Visit to Moscow 'Postponed' *[IRNA]* 47
IRNA Reports Postponement 47
Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli 'Crimes' *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Presence of NATO Forces in Gulf Deplored *[IRNA]* 48
Tehran on Velayati Meeting With Omani Sultan 48
Khamene'i Favors Joint Military Command *[Tehran Radio]* 48
*RESALAT 24 Oct Majles Session Report *[25 Oct]* 49

Pakistan

Sharif Requests No Comments on U.S. Relations *[THE MUSLIM 13 Dec]* 55
Yaqub Khan, U.S. Envoy View Nuclear Issue *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
IAEA Official Lauds Nuclear Use Performance *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Editorial Reviews Nuclear Policy Options *[THE MUSLIM 13 Dec]* 56
Sharif Comments on Stranded Citizens in Gulf *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Political Changes in Bangladesh Reviewed *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Sharif Meets Ishaq Khan; Views Situation *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Reaction to Treatment of Indian Muslims 57
Jatoi Regrets Massacres *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Committee Notes Massacre *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Commentary Views Violence *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Minister Urges Determination To Help Kashmiris *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Kashmir Leader Criticizes India on Violence *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Agreement With Tokyo on Economic Cooperation *[Islamabad Radio]* 59

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Warns of New 'Zionist Crime' in Jerusalem

JN1412161890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Tunis, 14 Dec (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has warned the UN Security Council and the United Nations that the Zionist enemy is planning to commit a new crime in its series of crimes against the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Palestinian people.

The INA correspondent in Tunis reports that 'Arafat has asked Palestine's representative at the United Nations to submit official memorandums in this regard to the Security Council president and the UN secretary general. He said the state of Palestine has asked its representatives at international, regional, Islamic, and Arab organizations to expose the objectives of the criminal Zionist scheme against the al-Aqsa Mosque in Holy Jerusalem.

Zionist media organs reported the day before yesterday that the so-called Temple Mount Faithful group plans to hold a celebration in the al-Haram al-Sharif courtyard on the occasion of the Jewish feast of Hanukkah, which starts tomorrow, Saturday.

PLO Issues Statement

LD1412195690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Brothers, the PLO official spokesman made the following statement:

During the past two days, international and Israeli news agencies and media organs have reported Israeli preparations to desecrate the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and to carry out fresh massacres of the sons of our Palestinian people in Jerusalem. This will be done on the pretext that the so-called Temple Mount Faithful intend to visit the holy Jerusalem sanctity on 17 December, which has been approved by the Israeli Government.

The PLO reminds the international community and the Arab and Islamic worlds of the appalling massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the sons of our people inside Jerusalem. That massacre resulted in 31 martyrs and hundreds of wounded—under the same pretext now used by the Israeli occupation authorities—when this Zionist group, the so-called Temple Mount Faithful, tried to lay the foundation stone of the temple in the Jerusalem sanctity.

The PLO holds the Israeli Government fully responsible for this new provocation and aggression, which is being prepared publicly and openly, and calls on the whole world to shoulder its responsibilities in the face of this official escalation of Israeli terrorism against our Palestinian people.

The PLO stresses that the Israeli Government would not have prepared this new bloody scheme if it faced an official international deterrent within the context of the UN Security Council for the first Jerusalem massacres. This is due to the U.S. Administration's protection of the Israeli occupation and of the Israeli crimes against, and violations of, our sanctities and those of the Palestinian people through the unlimited support it gives to Israel at all levels and by all means.

The PLO calls on the UN Security Council—especially the five permanent members, the UN secretary general, and the chairman of the international committee for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination—to stand against this new bloody scheme.

The PLO stresses that the Palestinian people will confront this new brutal aggression in order to prevent the criminals from desecrating the holy sanctity—the first of the two kiblaas and the third of the two holy mosques.

A senior Palestinian source confirms that President Yasir 'Arafat issued immediate instructions to the PLO representative to the United Nations to submit official memoranda to the chairman of the UN Security Council, the chairman of the UN General Assembly, and the UN Secretary General in anticipation of this expected crime. President 'Arafat also issued his instructions to representatives of the State of Palestine and to the international, regional, Islamic, and Arab organizations to move immediately to expose the aims of this new criminal scheme. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Denunciation of Kuwait Occupation Denied

LD1512181890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] A Palestinian information source in Tunis today made the following statement: Certain newspapers published that the brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had denounced the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in an interview with Dutch television. What was published was far removed from the truth and what the brother president focused on at this interview was the implementation of international legitimacy regarding the Gulf crisis and the Middle East and the Palestinian problem. Therefore, we invite these newspapers and agencies to stick to precision in reporting their news since the PLO, from the beginning and at Arab conferences at all levels, has always rejected any resolution pertaining to condemnation, and has insisted on resolutions stressing a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis under a UN umbrella, a solution that would uphold the rights of all, the dignity of all, and preserve Arab security.

'Arafat Claims Loss of $10 Billion From Crisis

LD1312144190 Rabat MAP in English 1315 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Tunis, Dec. 13 (MAP)—The Gulf crisis costs Palestinians more than USD 10 billion, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said.

Arab countries no longer extend financial assistance to the Palestinian resistance in the occupied territories, in

view of the Gulf crisis, 'Arafat said at a meeting on solidarity with the Palestinian resistance, held recently in Tripoli.

At the Algiers summit of [word indistinct] Arab states had pledged to remit a monthly sum worth USD 43 million destined to finance the Palestinian intifadah. The Arab states were to supply the amount in addition to their traditional contribution to the PLO budget.

PLO had attempted in vain to obtain, as Egypt and Turkey, UN assistance and compensation for the loss caused by the Gulf crisis.

'Arafat Meets Envoys to Tunisia on UN Talks

LD1412063990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat conferred with the ambassadors to Tunisia from France, Britain, the Soviet Union, and the PRC. WAFA reported that, during these meetings, they reviewed the current UN Security Council discussions on the draft resolution on protecting the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation and on the international peace conference on the Middle East.

It is noteworthy that the UN Security Council has again postponed its meeting allocated for voting on this draft resolution until next Monday at the request of the Soviet Union.

PFLP-GC Leader Ahmad Jibril Interviewed

NC1412144590 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 8 Dec 90 pp 8-9

["Exclusive" interview with Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, by unidentified KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL correspondents in Tehran on 5 December]

[Text] KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL: Exactly what is happening today in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip three years after the intifadah has started?

Ahmad Jibril: Without doubt the intifadah has developed visibly in the last three years. It began by throwing stones against the Israeli troops. Then it went into the phase of using molotov cocktails. Recently the freedom fighters inside the territories have reached the stage where they are engaged in close combat and employing knives and similar weapons against the Israelis. We are fighting quite intensely against the Israelis.

I think you have recently seen on television that a Palestinian lady has stabbed to death three Zionist soldiers. This is something very significant in our movement. The intifadah is not restricted to any one section of our people inside the occupied territories but all our people; boys and girls, old and young, men and women are playing a part. We are fighting as if we are in the last trench and we are not allowed to be defeated. Thousand of Jews (from the Soviet Union) are coming to occupied Palestine and they are going to stay at our expense.

Q: How far is it true that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's cooperation with Iraq in the present Persian Gulf crisis has damaged the Palestinian cause?

A: First of all, the damage our people has suffered arises from the fact that the aid that used to come from the gulf area has ceased. Tens of thousands of our people who used to live in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other gulf areas have been evacuated and you know that food is very important to everybody.

Secondly, we can say that since the gulf crisis has erupted, the Palestinian cause has been diminished because the crisis is now the main headline in the newspapers, magazines and mass media. This reality extends even to humanitiarian sentiments. The intifadah has been relegated to the second page in the mass media.

This situation has encouraged Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to carry out a variety of crimes against our people in the territories, all in the light of the great influx of the Jews from the Soviet Union. This is in addition to the daily suppression of our people. These conditions are the consequence of the deep attention given by the western nations to the Persian Gulf crisis and their subsequent ignoring of the events of the intifadah.

We can also say that the split which has occured in Arab ranks as a result of the crisis has encouraged an increase in the damages our people are suffering. We are sure the Palestinians will not gain any profit from the gulf problem.

Q: If war breaks out, will Palestinian troops fight beside Iraq against the U.S. and the multinational forces?

A: We are sure of only one thing: All the Palestinian freedom fighters will war against the United States. This has not come about as a result of our support for Saddam Husayn but it is self-defense against any aggression that the United States may commit against the Palestinians. We will never allow the United States to triumph over Iraq because we believe the Iraqi people in addition to being Arab, are also Muslim. We are sure that it will not be only the Palestinians who fight against the United States; there are many Arab and Muslim peoples that will war against the United States. The Muslim world is not a Latin American banana republic such as Panama or Grenada.

Q: The Persian Gulf sheikhdoms are very keen to get rid of the Palestinians who have lived in the area for decades. There are 700,000 Palestinians living in the gulf. What is their condition today?

A: There is no exaggration if we assert that the Persian Gulf crisis has hurt our people in the area. This is primarily material damage and is not confined to

Kuwait, but extends throughout the gulf region where the majority of Palestinians are being expelled and their properties expropriated.

However, there is a positive side to these circumstances. The forced evacuation of the Palestinians from the gulf area means that the number of fedayeen will be increased. When they reach us they will be filled with hatred for the sheikhdoms and the Saudi monarch.

Q: How do the various Palestinian elements feel about Syria's new attitude towards the U.S. and Syria's committing of troops against Iraq?

A: We were not in a comfortable state when Syria decided to send some of its troops to Saudi Arabia. But when we inquired of the Syrian officials about this subject, they asserted that these troops will never fight against Iraq whatever may happen. Syria will never comply with the Americans' desire to see them war against Iraq. The Syrians told us their soldiers stationed in Saudi Arabia are considered as peacekeeping forces. I personally am convinced that Syria will never fight alongside American troops against Iraq.

Q: Once the PLO was committed to liquidating Israel. Then the last PNC [Palestine National Council] meeting in Algiers in Nov. 1988 adopted a strategy of peace, or partition if you may, and soon after that a U.S.-PLO dialogue started. Israel on the other hand rejects dialogue with the PLO. How do you characterize Mr. 'Arafat's position at the present time?

A: 'Arafat has been encouraged by various Arab powers and different countries in the East and West to make a lot of concessions even in his political program. They succeeded in pushing 'Arafat to such a stage. So we can say that the PLO and 'Arafat have decided to get rid of their political program which aims at the liberation of Palestine. You have to be sure that what 'Arafat has asked for is the restoration of a small part of our occupied territories come what may. So we can say that he has accepted the Israeli presence.

He was thinking at that time that he is not going to pay too much for his vision. But when these foreign powers became sure that 'Arafat has been disarmed they pushed him in the waste basket. Despite all the concessions 'Arafat made in our history in Palestine and the high price that he paid for a mere dialogue with the U.S. in Tunis at ambassadorial level, and you know the American ambassador in Tunisia was playing tricks with the Palestinian delegation, the U.S. put an end to such dialogue which we call a deaf and dumb dialogue. We in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command (PFLP-GC) were sure that 'Arafat will never gain anything and they are pushing him to reach such a stage. We reached this conclusion many years ago.

We were one of the main columns of the PLO but when Mr. 'Arafat embarked on his ambitious program after 1983 and started a new policy of concessions, we separated from the PLO. He is on one side and we are on the other. Time has proved that we are on the right side. Here I would like to refer to a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he said that "I feel ashamed when I consider myself to be the first Israeli (leader) who is going to talk with a Palestinian," because what he (Shamir) called "historical Israel" is his grandfather's land. Shamir continued by saying that "If it is my destiny to talk with 'Arafat, I will tell him to please go to Trans-Jordan because there is your land and that is your country and you can have an alternative state. [no end quotation marks as published] I'm sure Mr. 'Arafat was running after a mirage. We are proud of being able to see and read the truth between the lines. Thus we have no problem. We are fighting and will continue to do so because we have a well-defined program. And we are mobilizing all sources of power to continue our struggle against Israel. This is the reason why we are in Tehran, in order to mobilize the Islamic forces against Israel and to liberate Palestine.

Q: What do the various Palestinian organizations feel about the PNC's implicit recognition of Israel and the fact that two years after that (Nov. 88 conference) Israel stubbornly refuses to recognize Palestinian rights?

A: First of all you should put this question to Mr. 'Arafat himself. We asked 'Arafat to admit that he has committed a very grave mistake when he made such concessions to the Israelis. 'Arafat must declare through a new PNC session that he made a very big historical error and nullify all the decisions he has made. Decisions which were made to pave the path for liquidating Palestinian goals. We can say that today 'Arafat has no supporters except for those who can be classified as mercenaries. 'Arafat tried to exploit the (Persian) Gulf crisis to boost his popularity within the context of his people. He and his supporters claim that the road to Palestine passes through Kuwait. These are the ways of (Iraqi president) Saddam. As a reminder you will recall a remark by Saddam about 10 years ago to the effect that the road to Palestine passes across Abadan.

Q: Now it seems the Arab world really lacks a strategy to influence Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. Can an armed struggle help change the thinking of Arab leaders and Israeli decision-makers?

A: In 1967 (Arab-Israeli war) the Arab leaders were defeated. Cairo, Amman, Damascus and Baghdad were open at that time to the Israeli soldiers because the armies of those four countries were totally defeated and out of the war. But we the revolutionary forces at that time rose up to fight the Israeli forces who had won the war against four Arab states. What encouraged our people and the Arab leaders of that time was the continuity of our fighting against the Israelis. Now we can say that the (present) temporary conditions are more difficult than those prevailing in 1967. This does not mean, however, that now Arab potentials are less than those which existed during the Six-Day War. We can say that the potentials of Arab leaders are better than that time. But we are sure that the Arab leaders are defeated from

the inside—they are psychologically defeated. Thus we consider that our mission nowadays as a revolutionary force is somewhat difficult. We have to admit that the intifadah in the occupied territories has boosted our morales. Not our morale alone but also those of Muslims all over the world. So we feel that it is high time to mobilize the potentialities of all Arab and Muslims to fight Israel and liberate our occupied lands. We need the support of all revolutionary Muslims especially after we lost the Soviet Union and its camp.

Q: With the westernization of the Soviet Union and its near disintegration, where can the various Palestinian organizations including the PLO and other progressive groups look for assistance?

A: Earlier in the interview I said that now we have to depend on ourselves, the Islamic Revolution in Iran and all the world's Muslim revolutionary forces; otherwise there will be no way out but to surrender.

Q: This week the underground leadership of the intifadah has called for "all means" (meaning the use of firearms) to be used in the struggle, an act contrary to the PLO's stance which rejects armed struggle. What is your opinion regarding this new development?

A: First of all I would like you not to be deceived when you hear that the intifadah inside our occupied territories gets its instructions from outside—from 'Arafat himself. The uprising itself amazed 'Arafat and in response he personally tried to encircle the intifadah. He has a wide potential mainly financial resources. But frankly speaking the position of our people in the occupied lands is in disagreement with the aspirations and inclinations of 'Arafat himself. For your information note that some of his supporters in the intifadah leadership inside the territories wrote to 'Arafat that they were sorry and that they have to go along with the masses. They added that they could not cooperate with him and if they failed to do so (join the masses) they would have to face their destiny. This is a simple interpretation of the entire political thinking of the people living inside the occupied territories.

Q: Do you think the intifadah has been successful as a movement considering the number of casualties sustained by the Palestinians since Dec. 8, 1987? What will be the future of the intifadah?

A: Before the uprising began there was fierce fighting against the Israelis. We can say that the Palestinians battled with the Israelis for 25 years. We in the General Command can recall that when we reached the age of 25 we had lost thousands of our martyrs and the same applies to others. We described those battles as guerrilla war. But before 1987 we were unable to revolutionalize all the people. So you see the intifadah is something special. It is a new stage, new condition in the life of our people. This can be characterized by the fact that our people from all walks of life are taking part in the uprising—men, women, boys, girls, young and old. People gather in the mosques and from there they declare their attacks on Israeli positions. In retrospect the victims of the intifadah include men, women and children.

Regarding the future of the intifadah, I was asked a similar question at the outset of the popular uprising. The question was: What is the future of the intifadah? Will it continue? I told the enquirer that our intifadah has made a new opening in the war against Israel and such an opening will widen everyday. The Israeli enemy is somewhat shattered as it faces the effects of the uprising. The Israelis are tired. For this reason they are trying to bring Jews from everywhere to Palestine to fight against the uprising and in light of the Jewish influx to occupied Palestine we have to expect, as you know, that the Israeli government is going to set up new settlements in the occupied territories.

Algeria

President Makes Unscheduled Visit to Beirut

LD1612131390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, arrived in Beirut on an unscheduled working visit, the duration of which is unknown.

President Chadli Bendjedid was received in Shturah by Mr. Salim al-Huss, the Lebanese prime minister; the ambassador of Algeria to Lebanon; and high-ranking Lebanese officials. President Bendjedid was received in Beirut by his counterpart Ilyas al-Hirawi and Parliament Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

Before leaving for Lebanon, President Bendjedid held a last round of political talks with President al-Asad, which included the delegations of the two sides, in Damascus this morning.

President Chadli Bendjedid is expected to arrive in Cairo during his tour through several capitals in the region in a bid to find a rapprochement of stances toward the Gulf crisis and confine its complications. The president of the republic will hold talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and will exchange views with him about the means of finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. Today's issue of AL-AHRAM reported, citing Arab diplomatic sources, that President Bendjedid has an Arab peace initiative for a solution to the crisis. The opposition party's paper AL-WAFD, on the other hand, announced that President Bendjedid would inform President Mubarak of the results of Algerian efforts to lessen the tension between Iraq and the Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia, and the preparations for convening an urgent Saudi-Iraqi summit.

Official Sources Qualify Algiers Gulf Initiative

LD1612104290 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 16 Dec (APS)—Middle East Radio diffused information spoken about an Algerian intention aimed at convening a meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of Gulf countries, a meeting due to be expanded later to Jordan and Iraq toward a possible holding of a summit. Algerian authorized sources qualified this information as being "purely eccentric", the Algerian approach, specified they, has nothing of this nonsense. On the contrary, it is inspired from principles if consultation and exchange of points of our before any other initiative. [sentence as received] At such circumstances, reasserted the same sources, there is no room for mediation nor Algerian plan in this matter. The sole and unique objective of Algeria is to strengthen, by means of an open and sincere dialogue, any peace dynamic that could guarantee to the region, security and stability.

Islamic Fundamentalists Seek Hamrouche Ouster

LD1412121790 Paris International Service in French 0635 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Islamic fundamentalists staged a show of strength yesterday in the streets in Algiers. Two thousand young fundamentalist demonstrators marched toward the presidential palace to ask for the dismissal of Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche. They also accused the head of the government of pushing the country to the brink of ruin. They are also simply threatening to take up arms. These demonstrations were staged by the Islamic League of the Martyrs' Sons, which is affiliated to the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. The movement requests the granting of land to the sons of members of the resistance killed during the Algerian [independence] war, the reestablishment of the ministry for veterans which was abolished last year, and housing facilities for persons who were disabled in the war.

The demonstration ended calmly, but it remains that the FIS forces continue their pressure, not only in the social field but also regarding the Palestinian issue, since recruitment offices have been opened to enlist young people for a holy war against Israel. Anne Duseize [correspondent in Algiers]

[Duseize] Six minutes were enough for 'Ali Belhadj, the most passionate leader [of the FIS] and the one most listened to by the young FIS activists, to convince on 5 December hundreds of young people to enroll in the lists of Jihad for Palestine. Since last Saturday, an office was opened on the premises of the People's Council of Algiers, [in] the town hall. The same thing took place in several towns or provinces where the FIS has a majority. A few days later, hundreds, even thousands enrolled to take part in the holy war, foremost among them was, of course, 'Ali Belhadj.

It seems however that the FIS is not ready to send these young people as of today to fight in the occupied territories. It is rather a question of a political operation aimed at, I quote, denouncing the apathy of Arab states in the Muslim countries and the complicity among them regarding the Palestinian question.

The government is not reacting for the time being. Its priority is to push the economic reforms through. It will be the job of mayors and walis [governors] to engage in polemics with the FIS.

Mauritania

Information Minister Denies Torture Allegations

AB1512081490 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] In Mauritania the authorities have reacted for the first time following the publication of the latest report of Amnesty International on recent arrests in Nouakchott. The human rights organization claims that among the hundreds of thousands of people arrested, several died under torture. The Mauritanian minister of information

confirms the arrests but denies that there was any torture. Here is Mohamed Ould Ahmed speaking to our colleague of Radio France International:

[Begin Ahmed recording] I agree that some Mauritanians were arrested, but I would say that the allegation that some of them succumbed under torture is completely groundless. We formally refute the accusations of Amnesty International. There was an attempted coup d'etat, but it was not real, and all that we are saying is that this has nothing to do with the current elections.

Concerning the elections for Nouakchott, there were four electoral lists which were approved from the beginning, and after the first round one of these lists was eliminated. So three lists were left for the second round, and there were no arrests. [end recording]

Morocco

Last-Minute Talks Fail To Avert General Strike

LD1412141790 Rabat MAP in English 1301 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec 14 (MAP)—After lengthy meetings Thursday night and early Friday, government-union talks on a general strike scheduled for Dec 14 ended in a deadlock making two major trade unions stick to their call, say dailies of the 'Istiqlal' [Independence Party] and the 'Socialist Union of Popular Forces' (opposition).

According to the newspapers, talks held Dec 12 and 13 between the government, the 'Democratic Labor Confederation' (CDT) and the 'General Union of Moroccan Workers' (UGTM) to avert a general strike broke down in the absence of a breakthrough. The unions argue the reasons behind the call to strike were still standing, the government having failed to give clear-cut answers to the items in their list of grievances.

The 'CDT' and the 'UGTM' asked the government for union rights and an end to abusive lay-offs. Salaries must [be] raised to keep up with price increases, the minimum wage being raised and extended to all sectors. A raise in allowances especially for staffers ranging from category 1 to 9 in the administration hierarchy. Reform of the deduction-on-salary procedure and employment-security for wage-earners. The right to work and get dole allowances should be guaranteed.

The unions also seek the reform and implementation of labor legislation as well as a new approach to public service and status of personnel in every sector. Mandatory membership at the national social security fund 'CNSS', proportional early retirement, and a raise in retirement and other allowances, are also at the top of the union's shopping list.

Deaths in Strike-Related Violence Noted

LD1412192590 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The general strike in Morocco is going very badly. In the town of Fes alone there is talk of 30 to 40 dead and many injured. There have also been many arrests in Tangiers and Kenitra. More or less everywhere the security forces have intervened against the demonstrators. The general strike degenerated completely this afternoon into violent clashes between the demonstrators and the security forces. Carmen Bader reports:

[Bader] Several apparently serious incidents broke out in various towns around the country. At Fes, first of all, according to a representative of the UGTA [as heard], contacted by telephone by the REUTERS agency, this official drew up a preliminary toll of 20 to 30 dead, and several dozen injured. According to this spokesman for the General Workers' Union, the skirmishes took place when students attacked buses driven by soldiers who were replacing the bus drivers on strike. The army and the police sent considerable numbers of reinforcements to the spot.

In Tangiers at least 10 people were injured, including an adolescent, who was hit by a bullet according to hospital sources. Several cars were set ablaze by the demonstrators in Tangiers while the security forces dispersed the crowd using tear gas grenades. According to several eyewitnesses, arrests were made. The most violent clashes took place in the working class district of Beni M'khada.

According to the same trade union sources, similar scenes took place at Kenitra, north of Rabat, and Agadir in the south of the country, where public transport vehicles were burned by young demonstrators. For the time being this is the only information we have. [passage omitted]

Government Denies Deaths

LD1412213490 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The government has issued a statement: Fes city witnessed serious events today which resulted in 30 injuries in the ranks of the security forces. A number of demonstrators have taken advantage of the strike call, which was made by the General Union of Moroccan Workers and the Democratic Confederation of Labor, and wrecked public and private property and set fire to a number of cars.

At around 1000, groups from the city's suburbs, particularly from Benssouda and Bab Fatouh suburbs, attacked shops, property, and cars and carried out acts of sabotage, arson, and pillage. A number of police stations, post and telecommunications offices, hotels, secondary schools, hospitals, pharmacies, banks, gas staions, a water reservoir, a barracks belonging to auxiliary forces, food storage facilities, and shops were targeted by the troublemakers who were armed with iron bars and knives.

A number of vehicles were set on fire, among which were five buses for public transport, a police car, and eight light vehicles. A high-voltage electric cable was also sabotaged.

The security forces, which tried to stop the demonstrators, were also the subject of savage aggression. Some 30 members of the security forces were seriously injured. On the other hand, no one was injured or killed in the ranks of the demonstrators; the security forces did not use their firearms at any time.

The situation had returned to normal by evening. A judicial inquiry has been ordered to investigate this matter.

Government Reports Light Response to Strike Call

LD1412214990 Rabat, RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The government has issued the following statement:

By the end of today, Friday 14 December 1990, following the call for a general strike by the General Union of Moroccan Workers and the Democratic Confederation of Labor, it seemed clear that there was no response to the strike call.

The situation was normal everywhere in Morocco, and no stoppage was noticed at the civil service. In the second sector—trade, services, banks, insurance companies, and hotels—activities were normal. The normal work of all public departments was secured.

Also, no stoppage was recorded in the sectors of urban transport, road transport, railway transport, air transport, sea ports, or airports. Also, no stoppage was recorded in the health insitutions, ports, telecommunications, or the energy sector.

In the industrial sector the response to the strike call was only between three and 11 percent in approximately 50 enterprises out of 40,000 enterprises in Morocco.

In the national education sector, a stoppage of 40 percent was noticed at the universities. This is due either to the absence of the students or the absence of the lecturers. The normal course of lessons was secured at the colleges and high schools. In the secondary education sector, lessons and baccalaureate examinations continued at a rate of more than 95 percent around the kingdom.

Lastly, it was noticed that there was a response for the strike at a rate of 40-50 percent by municipalities workers in the groups in which the Socialist Union for Popular Forces Party and Istiqlal Party have a majority, 124 constituencies out of 859.

The government—as it expresses its satisfaction with the population going to their jobs in a normal way, which shows a patriotic spirit—regrets the grave events which took place in Fes and which left 30 persons seriously injured among the ranks of the security forces. No injuries were recorded among the demonstrators. The prime minister is exerting the necessary effort in order to present a report to the parliament.

Paris Radio Details Army Shooting in Fes

LD1412223390 Paris Domestic Service in French 2130 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The general strike in Morocco today got violent. Incidents took place in Tangiers, Rabat, and Fes, where the trade unions assert that the police opened fire and that people have been killed. This report has been denied by the authorities, who say that 30 were seriously hurt among the ranks of the police but that there were no casualties on the demonstrators' side. On the line from Fes is our special correspondent, Helene Cardin.

[Cardin] Tonight the town is calm, and everything appears to be returning to normal, yet since this morning real tension reigned throughout the town, particularly in the market and in the poor districts, the shanty towns of the west.

In the morning, shop windows were smashed and shops looted. The glass doors of the famous Palais Jamai hotel were smashed after being stoned. Another hotel, Les Merinides, situated on a hill, was set on fire and smouldered all afternoon. Its occupants were evacuated. Buses and cars were also set ablaze.

Who are the perpetrators of this arson and looting? Probably not the strikers, but rather the young people of the shanty towns—uneducated, unemployed, and penniless, while here the cost of living has increased a great deal.

At 1600 hours the Army invaded these shanty towns, and bursts of automatic weapons fire resounded until nightfall. [passage omitted] At 1800 hours, the Army took up positions around the Palais Jamai, where a medical congress bringing together French researchers, doctors, and journalists is taking place.

French TV Satellite Relay Cut

LD1412232990 Paris Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpts] In Morocco, the general strike has degenerated. Very violent incidents took place at Tangiers, Rabat, and Fes. [passage omitted]

In Tangiers, according to information supplied by hospitals, there are some 50 injured, including both demonstrators and police. [passage omitted]

We note furthermore that Moroccan television viewers were deprived of the satellite relay of Antenne-2 [French television] at the time of the television bulletin.

Information Director Denies Weapons Use in Fes

LD1512115690 Paris International Service in French 0635 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Calm seems to have been restored this morning in Fes. The town is peaceful, perhaps even too peaceful as we

are told that no taxicabs can be seen in the streets, that there are virtually no pedestrians and that police are everywhere.

A France International colleague of ours said she heard shots in Fes yesterday afternoon, but according to the Moroccan information director, police did not use firearms in the town. You can hear him interviewed by (Claude Cyrill).

[Begin recording] [Director] The strike took place in a calm atmosphere except in the town of Fes. Around 1000 groups of people arrived from the outskirts and attacked shops, vehicles, effigies, and then the police arrived. At no point did the police use firearms.

[Cyrill] According to some witnesses there were shots.

[Director] I am telling you today, that as of the time we began speaking, no shots have been fired in the town of Fes.

[Cyrill] You speak of a number of people injured. How were these people injured?

[Director] First of all, most of the injured were from among the police who tried to contain the demonstrators. The latter used knuckle duster,iron bars, sticks, etc.

[Cyrill] Some trade union officials were arrested...

[Director, interrupting] To my knowledge, none were arrested. [end recording]

Government Reports Two Deaths in Clashes

NC1512130990 Paris AFP in English 1205 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec 15 (AFP)—Authorities admitted on Saturday that at least two people had died in clashes between demonstrators and security forces in Fes and Tangiers during a 24-hour general strike on Friday, as calm returned to the two cities.

An official statement issued here said that both deaths—a policeman who died of stab wounds and a demonstrator who was trampled by a mob—occurred in Fes, where 127 people were injured, while 90 were hurt in Tangiers.

On Friday, the government had said that no one had died during the rioting, while the General Labor Union Morocco (UGTM), which called the strike along with the Democratic Labor Confederation (CDT), claimed that 25 people had been killed in Fes.

Order was "completely reestablished" in the two cities, according to official sources, who added that security forces and municipal employees in Fes had begun towing away public and private vehicles burned by the demonstrators.

The rioting was accompanied by widespread looting, according to official sources, particularly in Fes, where authorities said the most violent demonstrations took place.

The demonstrators, described by authorities as "organized bands of agitators," attacked several police stations and post offices and looted and burned factories, shops, grocery stores and banks along their route.

One of Fes's most luxurious hotels, the Merinide, which overlooks the old city, was pillaged from top to bottom, according to authorities.

More than 100 demonstrators and looters were arrested, along with their plunder, which included a safe containing 600,000 dirhams (76,000 dollars).

Several other Moroccan towns, including Kenitra and Agadir, were also hit by violence on Friday, principally attacks on buses which were being driven by police officers replacing striking drivers, according to the opposition paper L'Opinion.

In a statement published late Friday in Rabat, the CDT and the UGTM held the government responsible for the violence.

"We fully carried out our obligations by taking organizational measures in order that the strike take place in an atmosphere of calm, of security, of discipline, of conscience and of responsibility," the statement said, adding that the government had resorted "to repression and to various means of pressure in an attempt to force a halt to the strike."

Authorities did not attempt to directly link the unions to Friday's violence.

A judicial inquiry has been opened by authorities to determine who was responsible for the violence, and Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki is to address parliament on Monday concerning the incidents.

[Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1230 GMT on 15 December adds, "An official Moroccan source in Rabat has stated that 71 members of the security forces were injured in the incidents which occurred in Fes yesterday following the labor unions' call for a general strike. The source added that 103 demonstrators were arrested, but there were no casualties. The Moroccan source asserted that calm is prevailing in other Moroccan cities."]

Prime Minister To Address House of Representatives

LD1412222190 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] This is a statement issued by the House of Representatives chairmanship:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 104 of the parliament's internal code, His Majesty's government will make a statement before the House of Representatives which will be followed by a debate during a public session on Monday 22 Jumada al-Ula 1411 AH, corresponding to 17 December 1990, at 1530 hours.

Therefore, the speaker of the House of Representatives summons all respectable deputies to attend the mentioned public session.

Bahrain

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives for Two-Day Visit

NC1612175390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 16 Dec (WAKH)—Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi first deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, arrived in Manama from Muscat this evening on a two-day visit to Bahrain. He is on a tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states. During the visit he will hold talks on the existing fraternal relations between the two countries; the latest developments in the Gulf region, in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of sister Kuwait; and other issues of common interest.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, and Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah headed the reception committee. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Premier Disdains Negotiations With Iraq

LD1512213890 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1907 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Interview with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah-al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, by unidentified television correspondent; place and date not given; from the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Dear listeners: We are happy to have this short meeting with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah-al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister.

Good evening, Abu-Fahd. We salute you at this meeting and thank you for allowing us to have some time during your visit [not further specified].

[Sa'd] You are welcome.

[Correspondent] Is it possible, Abu-Fahd, to tell us, in general, about the government's efforts on the ensuing crisis following the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait?

[Sa'd] Of course; the government's efforts following the treacherous Iraqi aggression against my country, Kuwait, are numerous at all levels and spheres. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Are there any points, for example, about which the Kuwaiti Government can enter into negotiations?

[Sa'd] Some people have misunderstood some initiatives put forward by a number of people. In our judgment there is no point in such negotiations. There is a resolution adopted by the Arab nation's leaders. Such a resolution is very clear and unambiguous. And there are 12 resolutions passed by the UN Security Council. Therefore, I do not see a need to waste time in putting forward the idea of a dialogue or negotiations. All those resolutions, which have been adopted by Arab, regional, and international summits, have called upon the head of the ruling regime in Iraq to withdraw. Thus, responsibility should now rest with the head of such a regime; he should implement all those resolutions. Any idea of submitting an initiative calling for negotiations or dialogue is merely a waste of time.

[Correspondent] Are any plans being considered regarding rebuilding Kuwait after its liberation, God willing?

[Sa'd] Of course, there are numerous plans; a number of measures will be taken by concerned authorities to (?rebuild) what this unjust war has destroyed. Do not forget that the destruction has hit all ministries, important public institutions, as well as other buildings in Kuwait. Do not also forget the pillage and theft committed against ministries, universities, and other government institutions. All this requires the government and concerned authorities to take the necessary measures to rebuild the new Kuwait. In fact, in order to implement this policy and measures, we have already sent a number of our young people from various ministries to America and other friendly countries to acquaint themselves with their expertise, and to see if there are any ways to help us implement such plans and measures. I am expecting those young people to come back with new ideas and studies which will enable us, God willing, to implement those measures after our return. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How does Sa'd al-Abdallah-al-Salim al-Sabah, as a human being and a citizen and not as the heir apparent and prime minister, feel?

[Sa'd] I feel hurt. As a citizen I can say that we believed in the pledges and we believed in the promises which we heard from the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad, as well as from Iraqi higher officials. The last of those pledges was made at a meeting which took place in Jeddah between myself and the Iraqi vice president just a few hours before the treacherous Iraqi attack. We agreed that we should meet again following the Jeddah meeting in Baghdad, and to hold our third meeting in Kuwait [words indistinct] in order to discuss matters which might help us to overcome differences, if there are any differences between the two countries, and to give a fresh start to our cooperation in all spheres. However, a few hours after my return to Kuwait I was shocked to hear of the Iraqi forces' attack against Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Oman

Algerian President Bendjedid Pays Two-Day Visit

Arrives 14 Dec

NC1412141690 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpts] His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Oman this afternoon on a two-day

official visit to the Sultanate during which he will meet with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to discuss matters of common concern in light of recent area developments.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id was in the forefront of those who received His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid at the sultan's private airport. [passage omitted]

His excellency the Algerian president is accompanied by an official delegation comprising His Excellency Sid Ahmed Ghazali, foreign minister; His Excellency (Muhammad Shahnun), presidential adviser for political affairs; and His Excellency Dr. (Bashir Khaldun), Algerian ambassador to the Sultanate. His excellency is also accompanied by a large information delegation. [passage omitted]

Meets With Sultan Qabus

NC1412191290 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and his brother His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid held an expanded session of talks at al-'Alam Palace in Muscat this evening.

His Excellency Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; His Excellency 'Abd-al'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas, information minister and head of the Algerian president's escort; and His Excellency Yusuf Bin- 'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended the talks.

Present on the Algerian side were His Excellency Sid Ahmed Ghazali, minister of foreign affairs, and His Excellency (Mohamed Sahnun) the president's adviser for political and diplomatic affairs, as well as Algerian Ambassador (Bashir Khaldun).

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, told the OMANI NEWS AGENCY that the approximately hour-long exchange of views between his majesty the sultan and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid had produced an agreement based on the understanding that the two fraternal Arab leaders adopt the same approach and are seeking, at every stage of the Gulf crisis, to secure the good of the Arab nation before any other consideration. They also discussed the Omani and Algerian perspectives on the issue.

On the Algerian president's visit and his current tour of the region, His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah said that his excellency the Algerian president's tour is very important in these delicate and sensitive circumstances. He pointed out that it is possible now to say that optimism regarding the Gulf crisis is gradually replacing pessimism. He added that in order for optimism to prevail, it is necessary to extend full support to the Algerian effort for the sake of finding a peaceful solution to this grave crisis.

His excellency described the Algerian president's effort as a very good start.

In conclusion, his excellency called on all Arab countries to support this effort.

[In a similiar report, Paris AFP in English at 1844 GMT on 14 December adds that Bendjedid "is to travel on to Syria. But there was no confirmation Friday of earlier reports that he would visit Saudi Arabia." AFP adds: "The Oman News Agency reported later Friday that Mr. Chadli would visit Egypt after Syria."]

Concludes Visit

NC1512204490 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpts] His Excellency Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid left the Sultanate this afternoon, after a two-day official visit, during which he had talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus on the developments of the Gulf crisis and the efforts exerted to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. His excellency the president and his delegation were seen off at the airport by His Majesty Sultan Qabus. [passage omitted]

His Majesty Sultan Qabus and His Excellency Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid held a second round of talks today at the al-'Alam palace. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs, said today that the talks were focused on the Gulf crisis. In statements to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, his excellency said that no specific formula was discussed by the two leaders, pointing out that his excellency the Algerian president was exchanging viewpoints with the Arab heads of state at the present stage. His excellency expressed hope that the tour of His Excellency President Chedli Bendjedid could lead to an Arab formula to help the Gulf avoid a catastrophe.

Meanwhile, his excellency the Algerian minister of foreign affairs said that His Excellency President Chedli Bendjedid was keen to visit His Majesty Sultan Qabus as part of his tour of the region. His excellency said that in view of the grave situation in the Arab world, especially in the Gulf region, His Excellency President Chedli Bendjedid was touring the area for consultations with the leaders of state of the region.

His excellency pointed out that the talks His Majesty Sultan Qabus had with His Excellency President Chedli Bendjedid covered relations between the two countries. He further said that the talks were characterized by full understanding and noted that the Sultanate and Algeria were working for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted] Visits Muscat

Saudi Defense Minister Pays Two-Day Visit

NC1612142190 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, left Muscat this afternoon at the end of a two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. [passage omitted]

Iranian Military Delegation Arrives for Visit

NC1612074990 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Muscat, 15 Dec (WAKH)—Iranian Defence Undersecretary for Industrialisation Affairs Brigadier 'Ali Ghaffar arrived here today for a few days visit to Oman.

Brig. 'Ali Ghaffar is heading a delegation comprising assistant commander of the navy for operations affairs and head of the military industrialisation (defence industries) corps.

During the visit, the Iranian official will hold talks with Omani top officials regarding matters of common interest and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Iran's Velayati Arrives in Muscat for Visit

NC1612163790 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] His Excellency Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, arrived in the Sultanate this evening. He was received by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs; His Excellency Ambassador Ahmad Bin-Yusuf al-Harthi, chief of the Arab department at the Foreign Ministry; his excellency the Iranian ambassador to the Sultanate; and a number of senior ministry officials.

Delivers Rafsanjani Message

NC1612185890 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] His exalted Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation at the al-Sib Royal Palace today. Dr. Velayati brought a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Iranian ambassador to the Sultanate attended the meeting.

His Highness Dr. Velayati and his delegation arrived in Muscat this evening on an official two-day visit to the Sultanate. He was received by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Ambassador Ahmad Bin-Yusuf al-Harithi, chief of the Arab desk at the Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian ambassador to the Sultanate.

In an arrival statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, Dr. Velayati praised the Sultanate's role in resolving the Gulf crisis peacefully. He added: We highly praise the important role Oman is playing at this critical sensitive stage. He went on to say that his country greatly appreciates His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id's efforts in the critical circumstances through which the region is passing.

In his statement the Iranian foreign minister stressed that his current tour aims at exchanging views regarding the current situation and the fast-moving developments in the region.

UK Envoy Delivers Major Message to Qabus

NC1512160990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Muscat, 15 Dec (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin- Sa'id of Oman received a message today from British Prime Minister John Major. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

The accredited British ambassador in the Sultanate delivered the message during his meeting with the sultan in Muscat today.

State Minister Leaves for Doha With Sultan's Message

NC1512160690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Muscat, 15 Dec (WAKH)—The Omani state minister for foreign affairs left Muscat today for Doha on an official two-day visit to Qatar.

Before departing, the Omani minister stated that he is carrying a written message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman to Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani on his majesty's acceptance of an invitation to attend a summit meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Doha on 22 December.

Qatar

Omani State Minister Arrives in Doha

NC1512182190 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 15 Dec (WAKH)—Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah arrived here today on a two-day official visit to Qatar.

He was received at the airport by Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Ibn-'Ali al-Khatir.

Iran's Velayati Arrives on 'Short Visit'

NC1612080490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0755 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 16 Dec (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Doha this morning on a short visit to Qatar.

He was received by Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al- Khatir, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad Bin-'Abdallah Al Mahmud, and the Iranian ambassador in Qatar.

Received by Heir Apparent

NC1612113890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 16 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin- Khalifah al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, conferred here this morning with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The meeting was attended by Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir and Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalid Al Thani, director of the office of his highness the heir apparent. Discussion during the meeting centered on developments in the region and a number of issues concerning bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

[Paris AFP in English at 1103 GMT on 16 December carries a Doha- datelined report on Velayati's meeting with Qatar's Shaykh Khalifah which cites a QATAR NEWS AGENCY report that the two men discussed "action being taken by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait" and "means of expanding cooperation between the GCC's six members."]

Meets With Amir

NC1612124990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 16 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin- Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received an oral message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati conveyed the message to his highness the amir when he met with him here this morning. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister; Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir; Nasrollah Mirza'i Nasir, Iranian ambassador in Qatar; and members of the delegation accompanying the Iranian foreign minister.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has reported that the message concerns the developments in the tense regional situation resulting from the Iraqi troops' occupation of the territories of the fraternal State of Kuwait. The message also concerned Iran's position, which condemns this occupation and insists on implementing the Security Council resolutions on the need for the Iraqi troops' unconditional and full withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate authority there. The message also deals with ways to maintain security and stability in the region and avert the recurrence of such aggression through common understanding among regional countries. In addition, the message touches on ways to promote and consolidate ties of cooperation between the two fraternal states of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields, in the interest and welfare of the two countries and the entire region.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1612145090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 16 Dec (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Doha this afternoon following a few hours' visit to Qatar. The visit was part of a tour of the region.

Velayati conveyed an oral message to Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The message dealt with developments in the Gulf region.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Comments on Palestinian Cause

PM1412161890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 90 pp 1-4

[Ahmad Kamal Hamdi report: "Sa'ud al-Faysal Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Bonn: Iraq's Occupation of Kuwait Has Not Helped, But Undermined the Palestinian Cause"]

[Excerpt] Bonn, SPA—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has said that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has undermined the Palestinian cause, not helped it.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT following his meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that there was still a chance for peace if the Iraqi leadership responds to the entire world's demand for a withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed his hope that Iraq would withdraw its forces from Kuwait before 15 January and that the Iraqi leadership would respect legitimacy and respond to the international demands.

Asked about Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's recent statement on the linkage between the Palestinian issue and the international peace conference on the one hand and the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait on the other hand, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: "In fact the Palestinian cause has enjoyed the Arab states' support ever since it emerged. There is a determination to grant the Palestinians their legitimate rights. So how can anyone argue the case for occupying an Arab state and claim that he is seeking to support the Palestinian cause? The move which the Iraqi leadership made has undermined the Palestinian cause and has not helped it at all."

The Saudi foreign minister described his talks in Bonn as fruitful, saying that they centered on the situation in the Gulf, especially since both regions—Europe and the Gulf—are approaching such important international conferences, the Gulf summit and the European summit. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Saudi Defense Minister Continues Visit

Meets With President

NC1512135990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0955 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Dec (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan met here today with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and deputy prime minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan.

The two sides reviewed developments in the current crisis in the region resulting from the continued Iraqi occupation.

A responsible UAE source said in a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY that there was complete identity of views on all issues discussed and that at the meeting His Highness Shaykh Zayid stressed that the fate and security of the UAE is the same as that of all the Gulf countries in general and Saudi Arabia in particular.

The source added that his highness the UAE president praised the firm fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and the sincere feelings of love between their leaders. His highness said: Our dealings with the brothers in the Kingdom are not based on compliments because we have relied and continue to rely upon frankness, sincerity, seriousness, and faithfulness.

The source said that His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan reiterated the UAE's firm principled stand that rejects the Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait and calls for the complete and unconditional withdrawal from its territories and the restoration of its legitimate leadership as represented by its amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. His highness noted that the Gulf Cooperation Council countries will give priority in the coming stage to strengthening their security and stability, ensuring confidence and happiness for their peoples, and protecting their dignity and glory out of deep belief in and adherence to, first, God's book and his prophet's teachings and, second, the homeland's glory and dignity.

More on Meeting

LD1512125990 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE [United Arab Emirates] president, visited this morning his brother His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al'-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, at his residence in the al-Mashriq Palace in Abu Dhabi.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz held a meeting during which they discussed the new events in the Arabian Gulf region and the means to consolidate the bilateral relations, in the interests of the two fraternal countries and the peoples of the region.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan and Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1512164490 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Dec (WAKH)—Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Defence and Aviation Minister and General Inspector Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz left here today following a four-day visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates].

He was seen off by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan and a number of top officials.

During the visit, Prince Sultan held talks with UAE rulers on bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and the UAE and the Gulf crisis.

President Orders Urgent Help for USSR

NC1612182090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Dec (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has issued instructions to provide urgent food assistance to the Soviet Union. This step, which represents a contribution by the UAE president, government, and people, is an attempt to alleviate the Soviet people's suffering due to the current food shortage.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, announced this during his meeting with the Soviet ambassador to the UAE this evening. His highness said that the UAE cannot forget the noble stands of the Soviet Union and President Gorbachev on the issues of justice, right, and peace, particularly the Soviet Union's just stand in rejecting the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, its full support for the unconditional withdrawal of the invading Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and the return of legitimacy. He also expressed appreciation for the Soviet Union's firm principled stands on various Arab issues, including the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Chief of Staff Meets French Air Force Chief

NC1512161690 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Dec (WAKH)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Sa'id al-Badi received today French Air Force Chief Lieutenant General Jean Bernard Morlein and his accompanying delegation.

They discussed military cooperation between the two countries.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Islamic Delegation 15 Dec

JN1512183190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1724 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has declared that if the Arabs are in good shape, man will be in good shape, and that if they were to become corrupt, Islam would be plagued by many of the things which we do not wish for Islam.

During a reception he accorded today to members of the World Popular Islamic Leadership [WPIL] delegation, his excellency the president said: If they were to tell us, let us first discuss the Gulf issue within the framework of international law and then we will discuss the Palestine question afterward, we would tell them, if oil is the most important thing to you, Jerusalem is the most important thing to us. The priorities of every nation should be respected.

Leader President Saddam Husayn added: We want peace. We are good builders. Good builders do not find it easy to use weapons. What would be the value of construction, however, if we were to be enslaved? I vow to you that we will not lightly use weapons; but I pledge that if we are forced to use arms, we will fight displaying all the meanings of Arab and Islamic honor which we know, have faith in, and have learned. The unjust will be defeated regardless of the number of their armies and the types of their weapons.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, and 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of Awqaf and religious affairs.

The following is the text of the speech:

God be praised, for He brought us together on the path of the right, God willing. I am very pleased to meet you, brothers. I have met some of you before. In today's talk I do not seek to convince you because, God willing, we are walking the same path—the path of right and good. What I seek is to strengthen your argument and contribute my share toward weakening the enemy's argument.

It suffices for the faithful to examine visible things to deduce from them what was unknown before, and to judge hidden things against visible things. It is not enough for man to content himself with words except when sincere words are based on a great stock of sincerity demonstrated before the words are said; otherwise we could hear good words, words capable of winning the people's admiration when they are spoken. These words, however, might not please God unless one's previous conduct and utterances are linked in terms of honesty and sincerity to the utterances and positions worthy of being made and taken at any given point in time.

Therefore, there will be no meaning to what I say if it does not have roots that go deep into the past with the same spirit. This applies to what the others from the other side say, and not what those among the believers say. Our language was never as clear as it is now, although in the battle it will be clearer because words matched by sacrifices take meanings different from words that are not matched by real sacrifices.

This February [1990] in Jordan we spoke plainly about Arab and Muslim affairs before the Arab Cooperation Council that comprises four Arab states, including Iraq. We also spoke plainly about the relationship between those affairs and human affairs. We said clearly that we reject injustice, exploitation, and humiliation. We also said clearly that the United States wants to impose its hegemony as a pillar for injustice, tyranny, and atheism—or infidelity, to be more precise. In what we said we did not show courtesy at the expense of truth. We were frank in saying what we thought was important, so that people near and far would understand the reality of what we believe in.

Hence, in February 1990 there was not yet a crisis called the Gulf crisis. If you examine that speech, you will discover that it represents our position. We now repeat the same thing at this particular circumstance which, without trying to describe it, I think what God Almighty has said "But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you" [Koranic verse] applies to it.

Then in conclusion, my brothers, we believe—and this belief of ours is not merely a general interpretation but is based on evidence, the belief is based on evidence and on clear texts in the Holy Koran—that if Arabs are virtuous Islam will be in a good state, and if Arabs become corrupt Islam will be afflicted by many things which we hope it will not be afflicted by. I believe in this fact because I am convinced that if God did not want Arabs to render distinguished service to the Muslims—and He did not want them to impose hegemony on Muslims or think they belonged to an upper class—then the Arab world would not have been the cradle for all heavenly messages, or to be more precise, the cradle of prophets and the land to which all heavenly message descended.

Why did God Almighty insist that all prophets and messengers come from this land? It is a forecast for a role in jihad, a role in sacrifice, a role in service, and a role in conveying the message. The Arabs are now corrupt.

Among you there are Arabs and non-Arabs, but you are all Muslims. The Arabs have become corrupt in all social, cultural, ideological, political, and economic walks of life. There is now no field left without corruption.

If we are true believers, then we should fundamentally reform the people whom God wanted to be reformed in order to form the good and faithful core to serve Islam in all its successive stages until Islam emerged with its light on mankind as a whole, and to serve faith in general.

In any topic you want to talk about concerning the Arabs, you will find there is intolerable corruption in everything. It might be tolerable somewhere else; it must not exist, however, in the land of the Prophet. Corruption is now among the Arabs. You all know that some Arab amirs and kings go to Islamic and Arab states and

gather the women together to look at them. In some Arab and Islamic states they line women up to choose some of them for their entourage, for their ministers, and for the amir himself. Is this the Islam that God Almighty wanted for mankind? Is this the wealth God granted to the Arabs, the land of Arabs, and the land of Islam? Is it acceptable that this wealth be used in this way while tens, and even hundreds of thousands of children, men, women, and old people are dying of starvation daily in the world? There are people dying of starvation in Arab countries, and others dying of starvation in countries far away geographically. Is this violation of humanity allowed to take place while we remain silent, and then claim that we are Muslims? Jihad is not only against the declared traditional infidelity, but it is also against infidel behavior that leads to infidelity. The one who seeks to corrupt this greater environment must be opposed in order to protect or reform this greater environment.

This is the heart of the matter, brothers. Everything else is a minor thing resulting from the major thing.

This is the case regarding Arabs and Muslims. On the international level, there is also general corruption. While saying this, we do not want to play the role of a world reformer. Rather, we would like to perform our human duties and thus accept what we deem to be correct and reject what we deem to be false.

What international legitimacy are they talking about? How can Syria's rulers talk about international legitimacy? Do they respect international legitimacy? This is the essential issue that has to be addressed when we move from the first to the second point.

We seek international legitimacy and accept international law, but according to this concept. Inflicting injustice on the Arabs is not an example of the sound application of this concept. The Muslims have been done injustice, their lands have been partitioned, they have been colonized, their wealth has been and continues to be plundered, and their countries have been partitioned and ripped apart. In accordance with this concept, Palestine has been usurped. Our women continue to be humiliated. The economic and social situation does not bring them closer to faith. No, it puts them in a position in which their feet might slip to vice, God forbid. This is happening everywhere in the Arab homeland, including Palestine. Everyday we, you, and the world observe and see the humiliation of a people living on their land, the Palestinian people who have been done injustice for more than 40 years.

When will this international legitimacy be applied? When will the international law of which they talk be respected?

If they want to respect international legitimacy and international law they must correct all their deviations and wrongdoings, otherwise we will again face double standards and see once more that international law is a mere cover.

On this subject, why does Iraq insist on this point? It is not only because Iraq believes there may not always be opportunities to make some people believe in right. However, there may be opportunities at times and one must use them to serve the cause of right. Now that the opportunity has been provided for the Western world to take interest in the region, Arabs and Muslims must present their legitimate causes in the region so that they serve as the basis to correct all the illegitimate interests outside the Arab world. This is connected to the first point; namely, if Arabs are virtuous, Islam will be in a better state.

I say it is not for this reason alone, but because the American, the Soviet, the French, the Chinese, and the English—are those not the five permanent members of the Security Council? [sentence as received] What do they have to do with us Arabs, to come and discuss our issues? They have nothing to do with us. The only thing that may make their logic acceptable to us is to say we are part of a human family that lives in this world and it is our duty to set up a system that would make everybody respect those rights. When they do not apply this law to themselves, we consider them liars and fakers and we do not trust them. This is why there is insistence on the fact that whoever wants to interfere in the region's affairs must discuss the issue on the basis of respect for international law. We respect law. However, they must apply international law as it is and on the issues according to their sequence.

If they were to tell us, let us first discuss the Gulf issue within the framework of the international law and then discuss the Palestine question afterward, we would tell them, if oil is the most important thing for you, Jerusalem is the most important thing for us. Every nation should respect its priorities.

You consider our oil the most important thing for you. We consider, however, our sanctities the most important thing for us. We do not say this, brothers, because we do not believe that Kuwait is Iraqi. We believe in this and have evidence of it; I have spoken previously to you about this subject. Ghazi was a king, not a president like Saddam Husayn. He was killed, however, because he adhered to this dictum. King Faysal I, the founder of the first Iraqi state in modern history, died and refused to renounce this dictum. Nuri al-Sa'id, the West's friend—and some Iraqis call him an English agent, may God's mercy be upon him, because he is dead—refused to renounce this dictum. His last proposal in 1958 was to restore Kuwait to the Baghdad Pact, which was held in Turkey in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Later 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim, the USSR's friend, made his well-known constitutional decision of annexing Kuwait to Basra as a district, and of appointing the Kuwait governor in 1961 as a district administrative officer in Kuwait as part of Basra as it was before. When it was decided in 1961 to turn Kuwait into a state after being a protectorate of England, 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim's representative withdrew from the United Nations and refused to recognize this situation.

So when we say that we respect international law, we put matters within the framework of the higher gains of the Arab nation and the Muslims. The restoration of Jerusalem is a gain; peace, stability, the establishment of relations based on mutual respect, noninterference, and the nonuse of force among the sons of the region constitute a gain that we want according to this view—the view that all others should make sacrifices to make international law respected. Otherwise the only legitimacy in which we believe is the Islamic legitimacy; it is right and justice versus falsenood.

Our guide in all this, brothers, is God's word in His Holy Koran—and the action of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessing be upon him—in showing rigidness or flexibility toward the acceptance of peace and the use of principled strength in performing a duty. We have all read about this.

Hence, we should not spare any step that brings us closer to serving these principles, be it political flexibility, conciliation [sulh], or anything else. We must reject, however, any situation that distances us and brings our enemies close to their sinister aims, even if we become immersed in blood up to the chest. This is our determination. Hence, we say that America and others should let the Arabs resolve their problems by themselves. There would be room for greater flexibility in the Arab arena than in the international one where evil is in full swing. Where is international law? The United States is raising the whip to lash the backs of those who have accepted enslavement. Would I then respect something called a Security Council resolution that emerges from this obnoxious dirt? How can I respect such resolutions?

I respect resolutions that are formulated according to a true legal logic at the rostrum of what they call the UN Security Council. How many times have deliberations on the Palestine question been adjourned by this body? All that is required is to provide international protection to a people under occupation, not to rid them of the occupation. Look at the extent of the injustice. How can we respect this institution? This institution is no longer an international one. It is no longer a Security Council. It has become an institution affiliated to Bush.

I agree with you that the power of your country Iraq is an asset for everybody that should not be wasted. The power that God desires, however, would not be a power if it were to submit to injustice. This is and has been the equation since 2 August. We have been acting according to this equation up until now, and actually even before that date. You recall when they were making preparations for Israel to attack us. Then we clearly said that if Israel were to attack, we would strike at it, and if it were to attempt [changes thought] or to believe that it would be sufficient for it to possess a nuclear bomb, we were capable of burning half of Israel. We said this in April, before the current events.

The battle was being fought against us long before that, and then things developed to where they are now.

Therefore it is both an offensive and defensive action. We could not let a base remain, which was a part severed from Iraq and which we agreed to in the hope they would be good brothers to us, for evildoers to use to conspire against us. Some of you may say that Kuwait is a small country. Yes, it is a small country and it was a small country in name, but it was a big country in its economic and political subversive resources. No single Arab country has as much wealth as they have.

They are able to carry out subversive acts, buy people off, and inflict damage. We do not consider subversion and buying people off a factor of strength. We faced them with our direct factor of strength. They employed their factor of strength and we used the counter factor of strength. Is it not a factor of strength now when they buy the votes of the biggest countries? Would this have happened if the matter did not concern oil?

Why did they conspire against Iraq before 2 August? Because Iraq was clearly raising the slogan that Palestine is Arab, Jerusalem is sacred, and Palestine and Jerusalem must return to normal, to what they were before occupation; because Iraq says that oil is a gift of God that must be used for the sake of the people and that the United States must not control oil—we must deal with it, buy from it, and sell to it. But it is unacceptable for it to control oil so as to control the world, including Arabs and Muslims. This is what was stated in February 1990 in Jordan; it is on the record and was said in a place close to Jerusalem. We said that Palestine must be liberated and the United States must not control oil and the world. We said we would endeavor to achieve these things. We said that the poor must have a share in the wealth of the rich. This is what we say and we will not go back on it.

We do not want war. Do you not believe that we do not want war? We are good builders. War is not easy for good builders. We built everything you have seen in Baghdad. What we inherited from the past are only two palaces and a hotel called the Baghdad Hotel, which is now considered a second or third class hotel. We have also rebuilt this hotel—we used to send our guests to the Baghdad Hotel. When a guest came to us, we used to send him to a place where there were stones that we would tell him represented Babylon, if he asked us about them. They were only stones scattered on the ground. We even rebuilt those scattered stones. We have not inherited anything worth mentioning. The greatest part of the people went barefoot and had yellow faces because they suffered from anemia due to shortage of food. The majority of the people were illiterate; Baghdad was merely a big, neglected village. We have built all that you see with hardship, effort, and accuracy. It is not easy for good builders to use weapons. What is the use of construction, however, if we cannot say that it was built on the basis of freedom and right? Without this basis, construction has no meaning. This is because the value of material construction derives its significance from man's spiritual makeup.

I pledge to you that it will not be easy for us to use arms. I pledge to you, however, that if we are forced to use arms, we will fight with all the meanings of Arab and Islamic honor that we know, have learned, and believe in. The oppressors will be defeated, regardless of the number of their armies and the quality of their weapons.

Thus, brothers, if the Arabs are left to discuss their problems among themselves, and if the concerned Arabs—headed by Saudi Arabia—are serious, many problems will be solved. But as you see, Saudi Arabia is helpless. It has allowed itself to regress to such a state that one of its officials has to correct in the evening a statement he made in the morning, and when their leader makes a statement, they are not ashamed when their most junior official corrects his statement.

As Muslims, you know that the lands of the Kaaba were occupied 15 centuries ago. Abrahah [a pre-Islamic Abyssinian ruler] advanced on the Ka'bah. Then God sent against him flights of birds that struck his army with stones of baked clay, and made it like an empty field of stalks and straw from which the corn had been eaten. This took place 15 centuries ago. Since that time no one has dared to occupy this land. But this land is now occupied. This is an injustice and a provocation against the sentiments of Muslims, not only those living in Arab lands or on the lands of Mecca and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], but also those living all over the world. This is an inhuman situation. We seek assistance from God.

On a statement made by one of those attending, asking if people should not make the pilgrimage under the Americans' spears this year, his excellency the president leader said: If you were to accept my word, I advise that they make the pilgrimage and express their rejection of injustice and evildoers during their presence in the holy lands.

May God salute you and bless your efforts and jihad. Any endeavor that repels evil and brings good closer is blessed by God Almighty. You are welcome. May God protect you.

Reportage on Cancellation of 'Aziz Visit to U.S.

Cancellation Announced

JN1612212990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has announced that he will not leave for Washington tomorrow, Monday, to meet with U.S. President George Bush. [passage omitted]

Date for Talks Discussed

JN1512104090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1022 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—Iraq has reiterated its assertion that Iraq alone sets the appropriate dates for its president to meet with foreign officials. Commenting on a statement made by Bush regarding the issue of the meetings which he proposed in Washington and Baghdad, a spokesman for the Revolution Command Council [RCC] said that Iraq refuses to link any date with the U.S. decision issued in the name of the Security Council—a decision which was issued through methods of bribery and obvious pressures. He noted that Iraq rejects this resolution and will not deal with its details.

The RCC spokesman noted that all statements made by the U.S. Administration after the Bush proposal have confirmed what we had warned of—that is, the U.S. Administration intends to use the proposal for the two meetings as an excuse to justify its policy of war and aggression.

The spokesman ridiculed the references in Bush's statements to visits by international personalities to Baghdad, and the linking of these visits to the issue of setting the dates. The spokesman affirmed that the visits of these personalities took place in accordance with prior arrangements and on the basis of dates that were appropriate for us and for the personalities that visited us. These visits did not take place in an arrogant manner or through imposition, as the U.S. Administration seeks to do.

Iraq reiterated its adherence to its principled position declared in President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which is our guidance in any dialogue with the U.S. Administration or others, because any real dialogue should aim at reaching a just and comprehensive peaceful solution to the issues in the region, particularly the Palestine question.

The following is the text of the statement: Commenting on the statement by Bush yesterday on the issue of the meetings he has proposed in Washington and Baghdad, an RCC official spokesman has stated the following:

From the moment that U.S. President Bush on 30 November proposed holding two meetings in Washington and Baghdad, the U.S. Administration has been resorting to procrastination and lies on the arrangement of these two meetings, and continues to resort to its method of threats that we have forcefully rejected. As an [Iraqi] Foreign Ministry official spokesman announced on 13 December, Iraq has suggested 17 December as a date for the Washington meeting, a date that is in line with the period of time that Bush has proposed for such a meeting.

The U.S. side proposed two dates and not 15 dates, as Bush claimed yesterday. The first of these dates is 20, 21, or 22 December. This is the first choice. The second date is 3 January; this is the second choice. We informed the U.S. side that these two dates are not suitable for us, and we proposed 12 January as a date for the Baghdad meeting. But the U.S. Administration insisted on its first proposal. We then suggested that the U.S. side set the date for the Washington meeting, and that we set the date for the Baghdad meeting. We said that we are ready to accept any date that the U.S. side arranges for the

Washington meeting on the basis of reciprocal treatment. The U.S. Administration rejected this and insisted on its position.

In addition to this intransigent and rejected American position, all the statements issued by the U.S. Administration after the Bush proposal have confirmed what we had warned of; that is, that the U.S. Administration intends to use the proposal for the two meetings as an excuse to justify its policy of war and aggression. Anyone who would propose meetings for a serious dialogue whose objective is peace would not create all this fabricated clamor over dates, or use methods of threat to prepare for a meeting and to impose the date of the Baghdad meeting on us.

The spokesman ridiculed the references in Bush's statements on the visits to Baghdad by international personalities, and the linking of these visits with the issue of setting dates. He said that the visit of those personalities took place by prior arrangement, and on the basis of dates that were appropriate for us and for the personalities who visited us. These visits did not take place in an arrogant way and through imposition as the U.S. Administration seeks to do.

The spokesman affirmed that Iraq alone sets the appropriate dates for its president to meet with foreign officials. Iraq also refuses to link any date with the U.S. decision issued in the name of the Security Council—the decision which was issued through methods of bribery and exposed pressures.

He said that Iraq rejects this resolution and will not deal with its details.

The spokesman affirmed that Iraq, which has always called for a serious dialogue, adheres to its principled position declared in President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which is our guidance in any dialogue with the U.S. Administration or others, because any real dialogue should aim at reaching a just and comprehensive peaceful solution to the issues in the region, particularly the Palestine question.

'Harsh' U.S. Tone 'Unacceptable'

AU1612185090 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1800 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Report by Rainer Hirsch]

[Text] One day after talks with the Americans were canceled, there are many signs indicating that Iraq is hardening its position. It was stated that the focus of attention is now directed at the Europeans. Hans-Juergen Wischnewski [Social Democratic Party of Germany official], in his capacity as representative of the Socialist International, is the first western politician to meet with Foreign Minister 'Aziz after 'Aziz canceled his talks in Washington.

In their two and one-half-hour talks, 'Aziz complained about the policy of the Americans. From the very beginning we have had certain suspicions concerning the purpose President Bush was pursuing with the dispute over visiting dates, 'Aziz stated, adding that as soon as the dates were given, the Americans assumed a tone so harsh that it was unacceptable to us.

Iraq's leadership continues to be unimpressed by the UN ultimatum concerning a withdrawal from Kuwait by 15 January.

[Begin Wischnewski recording] I do not know whether this deadline is taken seriously enough. We are certainly taking it very seriously. It would be good if it were taken very, very seriously here too. [end recording]

Today, some people in Baghdad are saying that the wreck of the Iranian aircraft at the Air Force memorial of the Gulf War will soon be replaced by an American one.

'Iraq Alone' Has Right To Set Date

JN1612175690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has stressed that the dialogue Iraq wants with the United States is an equal and effective dialogue that creates a clear and positive climate for the establishment of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

He told a visiting delegation of the Iraqi-U.S. Cultural Society today that Iraq alone has the right to set a date for President Saddam Husayn's meeting with Baker; this is in the essence of the dialogue and not a secondary matter, he said.

Ramadan stressed that the Iraqis and Arabs—who have beaten back invaders throughout history and protected their lands, sovereignty, and sanctities—are now able to liberate their usurped lands in Palestine, Lebanon, the Golan, Najd, and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], and end forever the era of slavery and colonialist hegemony, by virtue of their deep belief in the justness of their cause; their high readiness for sacrifice; and their creative, sophisticated, and peaceful inventions.

Members of the delegation praised President Saddam Husayn's leadership of the Iraqis and the Arabs and the [word indistinct] he achieved. They stressed that a strong, faithful Iraq will win victory.

Envoy Hints Iraq Might Negotiate Withdrawal

NC1712124590 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Nicosia, Dec 17 (AFP)—A senior Iraqi envoy hinted Monday his government might be prepared to withdraw from Kuwait through negotiations, while in

Baghad official newspapers warned that Iraq was now fully prepared to do battle with the United States.

The warning came as hopes faded for an Algerian-brokered Arab solution in the Gulf and plans for an Iraq-U.S. dialogue floundered.

"Don't ask concessions from the Iraqis before we come to the negotiating table," Iraqi Ambassador to France 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi said at an oil seminar in Paris.

If Iraq bowed to international pressure and took its troops out of Kuwait, "what are we going to be able to negotiate," he asked.

An international coalition, spearheaded by the United States, has so far demanded an unconditional pullout from Kuwait, while Iraqi authorities have repeatedly vowed never to surrender the emirate, which was seized August 2.

"We must sit down at the negotiating table and find grounds for understanding," said Mr. al-Hashimi, adding that Iraq was "ready to negotiate peacefully in the interests of everyone." [passage omitted]

U.S. To Pay 'Heavy Price' for Any Aggression

JN1612071790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, this evening received Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the Turkish opposition Welfare Party.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the U.S. Administration will pay a heavy price [daribah] for any aggression it stages against Iraq, which is leading the Arabs and Muslims in defense of the Islamic sanctities in Palestine and the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

The first deputy prime minister said those who put their peoples' destiny at the command of the U.S. Administration, and implement its aggressive orders, will not escape the anger of their peoples who reject the policy of the United States, the creator of the Zionist entity, which is conspiring along with it to murder the Muslim Palestinians and desecrate the land of sanctities in Mecca and Medina where the Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, is buried.

During the meeting, Necmettin Erbakan hailed the position of Iraq and its leader, President Saddam Husayn, in their courageous confrontation of the U.S. and Zionist imperialism. He underlined the support of the Turkish people, together with all of their Arab and Muslim brethren, to the Iraqi people. He said the U.S. Administration and its allies will be surprised when they see the Islamic force all over the world standing alongside Iraq in its defense of Arabs and Muslims.

Assembly Speaker Says Danger of War 'Increased'

OW1712141890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1403 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 17 KYODO—The danger of war breaking out after January 15, the U.N. deadline for Iraqi troops to pull out of Kuwait, has increased because of the U.S. stance toward the Persian Gulf crisis, Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, said Monday.

Salih told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that if war breaks out between Iraq and the U.S.-dominant multinational forces, it would be a prolonged conflict involving great sacrifices by the multinational forces. Direct negotiations between Baghdad and Washington are needed to avert a tragedy, he said.

Salih denied press reports that Iraq may declare by January 15 that it will withdraw from Kuwait. But asked whether Iraq intends to pull out, Salih refused to reply.

The speaker said the cancellation of Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's planned visit to the United States on Monday was temporary. If the United States agrees that Iraq has the right to set the date for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Baghdad, it is possible to start a direct dialogue between the two countries at any time, Salih said. The Iraqi Government has refused to receive Baker before January 12, which the United States says is too late.

Salih said the United States has failed to seriously seek a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid could not visit Saudi Arabia because the United States pressured that country to prevent an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, Salih said.

A peace plan offered by Chadli to Iraq was not perfect, however, he said.

Kuwait To Remain 'Eternal and Irreversible'

JN1612100090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that the battle, if the enemies were to force a military option, would not only be that of Iraq but also of the poor Arabs against the usurpers and plunderers of their pan-Arab wealth.

AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds in its editorial today that the faithful gathering, led by the powerful and war-tested Iraq, will wage the crucial battle not only in defense of what was accomplished on 2 August, notwithstanding the importance of this national and pan-Arab accomplishment, but also to liberate all Arab holy places in Palestine, Lebanon, the Golan, and Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], and to regain the Arab nation's right of choice, which is enjoyed by other nations.

The paper goes on to say: Ensuring the Arabs' right to the oil wealth in a manner that would put this wealth at the service of all Arab masses and their causes is another prime objective of the crucial battle.

AL-THAWRAH reiterates Iraq's firm position on its historically documented right to sovereignty over Kuwait, considering it part of its national soil, and adds that Iraq is determined to adhere to its historical and national rights. As for its decision to return Kuwait, the 19th province, to its people and its origin in Iraq, this is an eternal and irreversible decision.

The paper refers to the means of intimidation and disinformation used by colonialist and agent propaganda machines and quarters against Iraq, and says: What worries the gathering of evildoers and tyrants more and more, and makes Bush and his petty agents panic, is the pan-Arab awakening that is being experienced by the nation's masses from east to west in the Arab homeland.

Citizens Born in 1957 Called Up To Army Service

JN1712132190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The Mobilization and Statistics Department at the Defense Ministry issued a statement today calling up those born in 1957 who are under arms [musallahin] only, to serve in the Army. The text of the statement follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Statement No. 6 of 1990 issued by the Mobilization and Statistics Department at the Defense Ministry.

1. In accordance with clause (?M) of Chapters 1 and 3 of Article 15 of the amended Military Service Law no. 65 of 1969, it has been decided to call up those born in 1957, who are under arms only, to serve in the Army.

2. Those who are covered by the statement and currently reside in the country must report to their conscription centers within three days, as of 18 December 1990, and within 15 days for those outside the country.

3. This statement is considered an official notification for all ministries; the departments not affiliated to any ministry; and the socialist [public], mixed, and private sectors to inform members of their staff belonging to the aforementioned age group to implement its content.

[Signed] The staff brigadier general, acting for the head of the Mobilization and Statistics Department.

[Dated] 17 December 1990.

Foreign Diplomats Reportedly Leaving Baghdad

OW1712015090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0133 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 17 KYODO—Foreign diplomats are leaving Iraq as direct talks between Washington and Baghdad appear to have been shelved and the United Nations Security Council deadline for the use of force against Iraq approaches.

The Japanese Embassy in Baghdad said it plans to halve its 18 staff by January 10. All staff at the Japanese Embassy in Kuwait have already left the country.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad will also reduce its staff to two by Christmas Day, while France, Australia, and New Zealand have already curtailed their embassy staffs to two each, according to diplomatic sources. Denmark has had all its embassy staffers return home, the sources said.

A Western diplomat said diplomats may fear to remain in the Iraqi capital after January 15, the deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait, after which date U.N. member nations will be permitted to use force to achieve that end.

A proposed meeting on Monday between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. President George Bush is believed to be unlikely, following disagreement on when Secretary of State James Baker should see President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad.

Scientists Deny Report on Nuclear Potential

LD1612221190 Berlin ADN in German 1927 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Hamburg (ADN)—"Iraq would be in a position to build a nuclear bomb in 10 years at the earliest." This opinion is put forward by German scientist Dr. Bruno Stemmler in the Monday edition of the newspaper BILD. Together with the German technician Walter Busse, he denies in BILD a report in the SUNDAY TIMES which—citing the two experts who are resident in Bavaria—said that Iraq would be able to do this in 1992 at the latest; that is, earlier than hitherto assumed by Western secret service. The two former members of the staff of the firm MAN Technologie also deny that since 1987 they had been to Baghdad several times as advisers on Iraq's nuclear program. Bruno Stemmler said his advice had been "sought on irrigation and solar projects." [passage omitted]

Mubarak Urged To Reconsider 'Mortgaged' Position

JN1612124890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1216 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, has urged the head of the Egyptian regime to reconsider his position, which is mortgaged to the United States, and to take a stand that reflects the nobility of the Egyptian Arab people who have always been at the forefront of struggle against colonialist and Zionist schemes.

In a statement to INA commenting on the Egyptian president's remarks at the so-called People's Assembly on the Gulf situation, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the

head of the Egyptian regime continues to repeat his well-known positions, which are a replica of the U.S. positions we hear from Washington. This is what he has been saying and doing from the outset, since he has chosen to be an American tool in his handling of the regional situation.

Ramadan added: We would like to address the head of the Egyptian regime and state that the Arab will is destined to triumph, rather than the will of the United States and those employed by it to achieve its objectives. The Arab nation has the power and the firm will to confront the U.S.-Zionist scheme. As for Iraq's inalienable right to the land severed from it by colonial rule, it enjoys the support of the entire Arab masses. The statements made in this regard by weakling rulers, who linked their fate to the foreign scheme and view the statements and the acts carried out by the foreigner as a law to be enforced, are of no significance here.

The first deputy prime minister urged the head of the Egyptian regime to reconsider his position which has been mortgaged to the United States and to take a stand that reflects the nobility of the Egyptian Arab people who have always been at the forefront of struggle against colonialist-Zionist schemes.

'Aziz, 'Arafat Discuss U.S. Position at UN

JN1512101090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0954 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. They reviewed the latest developments in the region, particularly the criminal acts to which the Palestinian Arab people are being subjected at the hands of the Zionist entity authorities, the hostile position adopted by the United States at the Security Council against the Palestine question, and the roles of some other parties.

The meeting was attended by Sa'd Qasim Hammud, chief of the Arab Desk at the Foreign Ministry; Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee; Akram Haniyah, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for the occupied homeland affairs; and the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Baghdad.

Shamir Returns From U.S., Comments

TA1412124590

[Editorial Report] At 1100 GMT on 14 December, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew begins a live relay of the news conference held by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir upon his return from the United States. The news conference is broadcast in progress and interspersed with news reports on other subjects and running summaries of Shamir's remarks by political correspondent Natan Gutman.

Shamir says: "Everywhere in the United States there is talk about the large numbers of U.S. troops stationed in the Middle East to face up to the Iraqi threat to peace in the world and in this region. Naturally, there is a great deal of interest about Israel's role and position. They count very much on the understanding and wisdom of the State of Israel which, although it is not directly involved in the conflict, is carefully following it and certainly has its own notions and ideas. Everybody wants to hear about Israel's views, plans, and advice. Many recall those days in 1981 when the State of Israel bombed the nuclear reactor at Osirak and think how good it is that Israel did what it did against the better judgment of the United States and what would happen today had Israel not done this in those days."

Referring to his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, the prime minister says: "The consular problems and the question of direct flights still hinder the existence of natural, direct, and unrestricted relations with the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, I helped the Soviet Government attain the suspension of the Jackson-Vanik Law, which was legislated by the United States in order to force the USSR to change its immigration policy. On various occasions, both in public appearances and in my talk with the President, I said that now that we have such a large wave of immigrants the Soviets are entitled to easier terms with regard to their international trade, which is apparently important to them. Indeed, the U.S. President yesterday announced his decision on the matter and Shevardnadze thanked me for helping the United States on this issue.

'As for diplomatic relations and direct flights, he led us to believe that this is a matter of days and that there are obstacles which may not stem from political considerations but from the balance of power within the Soviet Government.

"As is known, in London I conferred with the new British prime minister, John Major. He was still in his very first days on the job, and he promised me that in everything pertaining to the Gulf crisis he would pursue Mrs. Thatcher's policy, whereas on other issues he had not yet formulated any clear policy. He showed friendliness for the most part, but we all know that one should not overdo one's expectations from the European countries.

"I had numerous meetings with small and large U.S. Jewish communities. With some of them we spoke about increasing the fund-raising campaign to help absorb immigrants. I must point out that Jews there have not yet grasped the large number of immigrants involved. Not all of them realize what is involved and the immense change that has occurred."

Gutman sums up Shamir's remarks with regard to the Gulf crisis, quoting the prime minister as having said: "We reached full understanding on most matters, and the issues we differed upon we deferred to a later stage." Referring to U.S. aid for aliyah absorption, the prime minister said: "We did not agree on a specific sum, but the Americans are in principle prepared to extend us aid." Commenting on the UN Security Council deliberations, the prime minister described them as "a tedious and prolonged debate. Israel's enemies want to use this debate to hurt Israel's status, but the Americans are seeing to it that Israel is not hurt."

Shamir is once again broadcast in progress as he speaks about the contribution of American Jewry: "Many influential Jews are not satisfied with giving donations and are looking for ways to help Israel by making large investments which would strengthen Israel's economy, so that it will be able to provide numerous jobs. This is a comprehensive and feasible plan which will apparently take time, but its time will come.

"I am returning from the United States with a strong feeling that our friendship—which I felt mostly in the House of Representatives—is one that does not know limits or qualifications. This friendship exists and may yield very important results. Any progress made by Israel and detected there will bring us more growth and prosperity. The visit was a good one, and we hope the future will yet be better."

Asked by Gutman to comment on the murder of three Jews in Yafo, Shamir says: "This was an appalling murder. What all of us feel when we hear about such incidents is clear, and I suppose that our people are now holding consultations on the measures to be taken in order to prevent the recurrence of such events. As soon as I get updated on the situation, I will also take part in those consultations."

The Voice of Israel's political correspondent Arye Golan asks Shamir to point to the main achievement of his trip to Washington and whether he is disappointed that President Bush did not make an unequivocal promise to help Israel absorb the masses of Soviet immigrants. The prime minister replies: "First of all, one cannot talk about disappointment in this case. I did not expect President Bush to greet me with a detailed list of the sums of money he will earmark to this effect, when and where. He voiced his positive attitude to extending such aid."

On U.S. Position on Deportations

TA1412193790 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin upon the prime

minister's return from the United States on 14 December; at Ben-Gurion Airport—recorded]

[Text] [Halperin] Before your departure, sir, you told us you would raise new ideas for the promotion of the peace process. Were these ideas positively accepted in Washington?

[Shamir] I thought we would have more time to discuss the specifics of a new move in the framework of the effort to revive the peace process. The truth is we did not have much time to devote to this issue, as far as our interlocutors rather than we were concerned.

[Halperin] Were they not so interested in the subject?

[Shamir] They were interested, but most attention was given to current needs, all of which concern the Gulf crisis. Indeed, at the moment it is impossible to do much because of the special atmosphere in the Gulf. It is difficult to talk with people over issues such as peace at such a time. They still said that we should think and start to discuss matters.

[Halperin] To begin to discuss matters now already, though, not to put off discussions until after the Gulf conflict is over?

[Shamir] Yes, yes, now already. To this end, the Americans have already scheduled the dispatch of a delegation, expected to arrive in Israel in the coming days...

[Halperin, interrupting] Their arrival was put off in the meantime.

[Shamir] The postponement was for a few days only. This is a purely technical matter, since one of the members of the delegation needs to be elsewhere in the original time frame. At any rate, a delegation will arrive and will begin to discuss all those ideas which may guide us at the outset of this new-old road. I only said, and this may or may not be seen as a novelty, that I would like to add to the talks over peace today a discussion of regional ideas, namely, ways to solve regional problems which are important for all regional countries.

[Halperin] Such as the water problem?

[Shamir] Such as the water problem. There are other problems too, and it is good to share them with various countries with a common interest. I am referring to problems which cannot be solved by each country separately. It is possible that we will have to find a way to include in peace talks the very serious issue which has made numerous headlines lately: the reduction of arms in the region. All this is part and parcel of peace.

[Halperin] You said the State of Israel is prepared for nonconventional arms disarmament, did you not?

[Shamir] I said that Israel is prepared to take part in an effort for arms reduction and limitations. I mentioned to the Americans that 10 years ago already, when I was foreign minister, I submitted to the UN General Assembly a concrete proposal on a nuclear-free zone.

[Halperin] Did the Americans tell you that the coalition with Syria, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries could serve as a lever for advancing the peace process, namely to progress toward a settlement or peace talks with Israel after the Gulf conflict ends?

[Shamir] They are very cautious about imposing new tasks on this coalition, for understandable reasons. They likewise understand our reservations about several of the partners in this coalition. They even sympathize with us here. Thus, we have not checked this aspect out.

[Halperin] It has been reported that the Americans demanded that deportations of Palestinians from the territories not be carried out. A U.S. television network reported as much this morning. Can you confirm this?

[Shamir] I would not say there was a demand, but there were many press reports that numerous deportations from Israel are on the agenda. Because of this, all those State Department officials who handle human rights issues have arisen and pointed out to us that this will not seem right to the Americans.

[Halperin] What was your reaction to this, Sir?

[Shamir] I did not make any special response. I only said that this matter has arisen in the wake of the increased number of violent acts. [Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 14 December adds, in a report in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles on Shamir's remarks during the news conference held at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his return, that when asked whether the Americans asked him to delay the adoption of measures in the territories, including the deportation of inciters, Shamir replied: "There is a sensitivity in the U.S. Administration about the adoption of drastic measures against Palestinians rioters and instigators. I was not told anything clearly, nor was I requested to cancel or prevent anything. Nevertheless, the Americans conveyed to me their sensitivity about acts which involve radical reactions to Arab violence."]

[Halperin] In your talk with the Soviet foreign minister, did Shevardnadze say the Soviets waived the demand for a Middle East international conference as a condition for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel?

[Shamir] He did not at all present this as a precondition for anything. He was also cautious about the use of this international conference definition. He said he was told that I do not like to hear this term, so he tried to use other terms which were somewhat similar to it, but he wanted us to partake in the intellectual effort aimed at reaching some sort of assemblies that may give rise to new ideas which may, in turn, produce increased peace and rapprochement among the nations of the region.

[Halperin] When will Jerusalem and Moscow enjoy full diplomatic relations then?

[Shamir] The peace issue has nothing to do with diplomatic relations. It was only a short while ago that we resumed consular relations, and Shevardnadze believes that the time for diplomatic relations will also come soon. There are some unimportant obstacles which he could not elaborate on.

[Halperin] Last question, sir: Do the renewed contacts with President Bush guarantee a continuation of such contacts? Do the U.S. Administration leaders now know the telephone number of the prime minister's office in Jerusalem?

[Shamir] They always knew the telephone number, and they may now better know that in order to reach greater understanding or cooperation this office had better be approached.

Arens Signed Deportation Order 'Three Weeks Ago'

JN1412173990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Basim Abu-Sumayyah dispatch from "the occupied territory"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israeli press sources cite the American CNN television network as saying that the Israeli authorities intend to deport from the occupied territory 12 Palestinians whom Israel considers to be intifadah leaders, including individuals from East Jerusalem.

The newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT reports in this regard that Defense Minister Moshe Arens signed the decision to deport these Palestinians three weeks ago.

Reportage on Aftermath of Yafo Murders

Rioting Jews Attack Arabs

TA1412133490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Over the last hour there have been increased attempts in southern Tel Aviv and Yafo by hundreds of Jewish youths to thrash Israeli and territories Arabs who cross their way in order to vent their rage at the murder of the three Jews today. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that at the Herzl-Ben-Tzvi junction the rioters overturned a car from the territories and torched it, but its passengers were rescued by the police and transferred to a safehaven. In addition, a group of territories laborers were brought into the courtyard of the Abu-Kabir detention center to defend their lives. Several of the rioters have been picked up. The number of policemen at the riot scene is not large, and reinforcements are now being rushed there.

Police Control Rioting

TA1412152790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Over the last hour the police have gained control over the rioting at the junctions in southern Tel Aviv, Yafo, and near Holon. The police detained three of the rioters and are interrogating another 13. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that scuffles erupted between Jews and laborers from the territories, and cars from the territories were stoned. One of the Arabs sustained a slight injury when he was stabbed in the head. He was transferred to the hospital. Almost all routes in the area blocked by the police earlier were reopened for traffic. The police left small squads of policemen and border policemen at the trouble spots to prevent renewed violence.

It has been reported in the meantime that 20 Arabs have been detained for interrogation in the wake of the murder of the three in Yafo today, but the police believe they have not yet laid their hands on the assassins.

This afternoon the relatives of the murdered were taken to the Abu-Kabir forensic institute to identify their dear ones, who will be accorded state funerals on Sunday.

Deportation Plans Alleged

JN1412172990 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir returned to Tel Aviv from the United States and said his government would decide whether to deport Palestinian activists within the next few days. Israeli sources said the hardline government plans to resume deportation of Palestinian activists soon after suspending it 16 months ago amid worldwide condemnation. Shamir was commenting on an incident in which three Israeli workers were stabbed to death inside a factory near Tel Aviv. [passage omitted]

Arab Cars Torched; 20 Arrested

TA1512061590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Three Arab cars were torched in Yafo last night. This was reported by Shim'on Vilna'i, our police affairs correspondent in Tel Aviv. Earlier it had been reported that 20 rioters were arrested in Tel Aviv, after rioters attacked Arabs from the territories yesterday afternoon.

Four Hamas Activists Ordered Deported

TA1512202890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Deportation orders were issued against four Gaza Strip residents today. All four are Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and are among the organizers and guides of the violent activity of this organization.

The four were detained yesterday together with hundreds of additional Hamas activists in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. All the detainees are Hamas field commanders, and most of their activity focused on formulating leaflets, on instigating and recruiting activists for the perpetration of violent activity and incidents, and on issuing operational guidance.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1915 GMT on 15 December adds that "about 600 activists of Hamas and Fatah's Islamic Jihad have been detained over the last 24 hours. Reference is made to the political leadership and area activists who are suspected of incitement, formulation of leaflets, and illegal activity."]

The four who are facing deportation are: Fadl Khalid (al-Zahhar al-Za'bud), 'Imad Khalid Namiq al-'Alami, Mustafa Yusuf 'Abdallah (Lidoy), and Mustafa Ahmad Muhammad (Kanu'a).

Gaza Strip Sealed

TA1512122190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] The Israel Defense Forces [IDF] last night arrested scores of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the West Bank. The Gaza Strip was sealed off today. A curfew imposed yesterday on parts of the Strip remains in force. Police are continuing the search for suspects in yesterday's terrorist killings in Yafo.

Arens Consulted Shamir

TA1512212490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Deportation orders have been issued to four Gaza Strip residents who are Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and known as the organizers and leaders of violent activity. They were detained yesterday along with hundreds of additional Hamas activists in Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria.

The four facing deportation are: Fadl Khalid (al-Zahhar al-Za'bud), a teacher at the Islamic University in Gaza, who had been detained twice in the past already; 'Imad Khalid Namiq al-'Alami, an engineer by profession, who dealt with the publication of Hamas leaflets and other material and is considered one of the organization's leaders in Gaza; Mustafa Yusuf 'Abdallah (Lidoy) from Jabalyah who had been convicted for incitement in the past and had been placed under administrative detention several times; and Mustafah Ahmad Muhammad (Kanu'a), also of Jabalyah, a money changer and a mosque preacher, who had been placed under administrative detention three times but still incited people and called for the use of firearms.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that the four are entitled to appeal to the military appeals committee of the Army's Southern Command, and can later also appeal to the High Court of Justice.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens decided to expel the four after holding a consultation at his office yesterday with the chief of staff, the Shin Bet head, senior officers, and representatives of the military advocate general's office. Minister Arens also consulted with the prime minister.

Minister Says Deportations 'Effective'

TA1612062490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by correspondent Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Defense Minister.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Qital] The decision about the deportations is not a routine decision; it was made in exceptional circumstances. There is no doubt that this is an extraordinary case. The question is whether it can do any good.

[Arens] We are facing a special situation, an increase in religious and nationalist fanaticism, which has accompanied the Gulf crisis and Saddam Husayn's various declarations. We must take all the measures we deem effective to deal with the phenomenon. I have no doubt that deportations are an effective measure. They are a deterrent. Anyone who considers carrying out such a murder will know beforehand that his attempt will mean that people he knows, people who were involved in the incitement that led to his actions, will find themselves on the other side of the border within hours or days.

[Qital] The United States made haste to denounce the decision.

[Arens] We know that there are people abroad who do not understand the problem we are facing. I tend to think that, had the United States been facing a similar problem, it would also have used all the possible deterrent measures.

[Qital] Mr. Arens, let us speak about other measures. In the past 24 hours we have heard public figures who did not speak favorably about the decision to deport and who favor the death penalty. Last night we heard Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat; on Friday we heard Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo, who is now prepared to consider the death penalty for terrorists involved in such grave incidents [as Friday's murder of three Jews by Arabs]. What is your view on that?

[Arens] For a long time I have held the view that we should use the death penalty in such circumstances, in murder cases, and I hope there will be a consensus about that in the cabinet.

[Qital] Another point or two about Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]: Did we not to a certain extent cultivate that golem by talking tough about the PLO and neglecting other elements that might be even more extremist, such as Hamas?

[Arens] No, we should not blame ourselves for a pan-Arab phenomenon, which does not exist solely in western Eretz Yisra'el. We are also witnessing religious fanaticism in Jordan, Egypt, and other Arab countries. As I said before, the Gulf crisis and Saddam Husayn's remarks and promises have set off that phenomenon in the entire Arab world.

[Qital] I know there is no defense minister who can promise total security in a country like Israel, so I am not asking that, but I would still like to ask: Can something be done to lighten the burden, the fears about what is happening in Tel Aviv as well as Jerusalem?

[Arens] We need cooperation between the security forces, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the police, and the public. We need alertness. A large sector of the population has had military training, and part of the public goes around armed, which is good. I believe that by cooperation between the civilian population and the security forces we will cope with the problem.

Senior Hamas Member Detained

TA1512190090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Hundreds of arrests were made today in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, mostly of people belonging to the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] groups. Members of other organizations were also arrested. In Gaza, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Rantisi, a senior Hamas activist, was detained.

In Rafah, a 19-year-old youth was shot to death in the head. Local residents said he was suspected of aiding the authorities.

In Tel Aviv, police caused large traffic jams by continuing to operate roadblocks in their search for the murderers of three Jews in Yafo yesterday. Last night the police also arrested 20 Jewish demonstrators attacking Arabs in Tel Aviv.

In East Jerusalem, the body of a man aged about 50 has been found in a cave in 'Isawiyah village. At Silwan, a masked man was slightly hurt when a Border Police unit used tear gas and rubber bullets against demonstrators throwing stones. The man was taken to hospital.

Four assault grenades were found in a stairwell on Shmu'el Hanavi Street in Jerusalem of a type used by the Israeli Army.

Navy Blockades Gaza

TA1612065290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Dec 90 pp 1, 8

[Report by Michael Rotem and agencies]

[Excerpts] Hundreds of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members were arrested over the weekend in a massive roundup throughout the territories, following the brutal Friday morning murders of three Israelis in Yafo. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources reported that as many as 1,000 Arabs were arrested in Gaza and 500 in the West Bank, as police searched for the prime suspect, a 19-year-old worker from Gaza, and his accomplice, both reportedly Hamas members. Israeli sources confirmed at least 500 arrests.

During a Friday march in Rafah marking the third anniversary of the founding of Hamas, a masked man read a speech claiming responsibility for the stabbings: "Hamas is responsible for the murder of three Israelis in the Tel Aviv area," he said. "It is Hamas' anniversary gift on to the Palestinian people." [passage omitted]

An army spokeswoman would not comment on the reported arrests, but said the Strip had been declared a closed military area. [A report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin on page A3 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 16 December, notes that "a naval blockade was clamped on the Gaza Strip over the weekend to prevent the escape of the perpetrators of the murders in Yafo."]

She said curfews had been imposed on five refugee camps, two towns and one district of Gaza City. Curfews were also clamped on three camps in the West Bank. Tulkarm and Qalqilyah were declared closed military areas.

Security officers accompanied by border policemen conducted house-to-house searches for the two suspected murderers. Security sources said the arrests were continuing. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu on U.S. Reaction

TA1612132190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Shalom.

[Netanyahu] Shalom.

[Zissowitz] Does the U.S. reaction, which does not welcome the decision to deport four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, disappoint you or was that the response you expected?

[Netanyahu] That was their reaction. We, of course, are implementing our policy, which is what is needed to overcome the wave of violence. I believe that the problem is not the deportations of the nucleus which incites incidents, and not even whether to impose the death penalty in extremist cases. The central issue we are facing is how to strengthen the deterrent moves in the face of the wave of stabbings and murders. That is the issue we are facing.

[Zissowitz] Yes, but how are we responding to such a U.S. response?

[Netanyahu] Just as we reacted in the past. We had differences in the past....

[Zissowitz] In other words, the matter is noted, and that is it?

[Netanyahu] We, of course, take it seriously into account, but in the final analysis we must make our own decisions.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Netanyahu, let us switch to the death penalty issue. The idea to impose the death penalty for murderers is again on the agenda. A few minutes ago we heard Health Minister Ehud Olmert say we must take into account the international repercussions before making a decision on the death penalty.

[Netanyahu] I agree. I believe there are certainly weighty issues to be considered, but there is also the question of whether people can go around slaughtering Jews and know that whatever happens they will not pay with their lives. Our problem is that the criminal who stabs someone usually does not fear for his life because there is not always somebody nearby to fire at him and because the orders on opening fire are not completely clear. I can go into details. Under the current regulations, a person who murders, who stabs a Jew and runs away—and during his escape kills somebody else—cannot be shot at. Later, he will not pay with his life because, as we know, there is no death penalty whatsoever for the crime, not even in grave situations. It is also not certain that he will spend many years in jail because it is possible that he will be released in a future prisoner swap.

[Zissowitz] Yes, but we have experienced such situations in the past and the arguments against the death penalty have held up to now. Why do you think they are no longer valid and why should we instate the death penalty for murderers?

[Netanyahu] Because we are now facing a different situation. The circumstances have changed, we cannot ignore that. There is a growing wave and we are reaching the stage in which the frequency of incidents is not one in five months, but one a week, if not more. We must take that into account. We have an enormous advantage which nobody else in the world has. Had this situation taken place in the Netherlands, the United States, or anywhere else, they would not have had our advantage, which we are not exploiting at all: That is, the very large reservoir of thousands of people active in the Army Reserve or the Civil Defense. These people often go home armed, either with an M-16 or other rifle, which is unsuitable for self-defense during their travels since it is difficult to use inside a car, and when they reach home it is put in a closet. When these people go to Dizengoff Street, to the supermarket, or a movie, they do not take their weapons with them.

What I am saying is that soldiers in the reserves should go home on leave from military service not with those awkward weapons but with revolvers which will be distributed by the IDF. If the Civil Defense significantly increases the number of trained people authorized to carry revolvers we could find ourselves in a situation in which we do not need to station guards or policemen everywhere, which budgetwise is impossible anyway. A soldier in the reserves who finds himself somewhere unarmed is worthless. If he is there armed with a revolver, as we witnessed in the case of the border policeman who foiled the bus attack [in Ramat Gan earlier this month] that makes all the difference. I therefore propose permitting more trained people to carry arms. This does not include all citizens and youths, of course. That way, we can significantly increase the actions to deter and prevent incidents.

[Zissowitz] That is the operational aspect, but at the same time, are you also in favor of a bill permitting the death penalty?

[Netanyahu] I believe we cannot talk about the death penalty in all cases; it is not realistic. It must be limited to particularly cruel incidents. Second, I believe that it must be accompanied by speedy legal proceedings, including swift appeals processes. I do not propose, for all sorts of reasons, and there is no need to go into detail, that we enter into extended legal procedures. We must maintain the law, abide by the law, and still give ourselves a way out so that potential murderers will know they can be tried and might pay with their lives.

Cabinet 'Determined' on Stronger Actions

TA1612133790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The Cabinet was briefed this morning on the decision to deport four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from Gaza and on the manhunt for the murderers of the three Jews in Yafo. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports from the broadcasting van outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem:

[Golan] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir tried to put the grave incidents of recent days into perspective. He said that we are part of an intricate and diverse system in which international elements also play a part. The people of Israel have faced tougher situations than this war of knives. Shamir, appealing to public figures—and perhaps to some members of his government— said that when public figures issue statements they should keep the whole picture in mind and not encourage panic. On the contrary, they should try to reduce the panic felt by the public.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who briefed the ministers on the decision to deport the four Hamas activists, said during the cabinet session that the deportation of the murderers' relatives and of inciters constitutes an effective deterrent measure. Arens stressed that the High Court of Justice had also ruled that the deportations were legal, adding that deportations would be employed in the future as well, according to need.

The issue of imposing the death penalty on the perpetrators of terrorist attacks and murders was not discussed this morning at the cabinet session; however, Ministers Arens, Pat, and Qatzav, as well as others, are known to be in favor of capital punishment. During today's Cabinet meeting, Transportation Minister Qatzav demanded heavier penalties and the adoption of harsher measures.

[Begin recording] [Qatzav] If need be there will be additional deportations. At any rate, the Cabinet is determined to adopt stronger measures in order to guarantee the safety of its citizens and their security.

[Golan] Including a closure of the territories, as you suggested?

[Qatzav] Including frequent closures of the territories. I believe that this step should be taken more often and for longer periods of time. I consider the closures to be a very necessary step, as the attempts to carry out terror attacks have increased recently, and a significant number of Arab employees constitute a security risk. I am sorry to say that we have no choice but to use this weapon. That, at any rate, was what I recommended. [end recording]

[Golan] Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat expressed support for the death penalty.

[Begin Pat recording] In cases like Friday morning's murder in Tel Aviv, which was one of the most serious incidents ever, or when we are talking about children or about kidnappings occurring against this background, the death penalty is definitely required as a deterrent. The bastards must know that they will be facing an iron fist. [end recording]

[Golan] But not everyone shares this opinion. There are other ministers who oppose the death penalty. Immigrant Absorption Minister Peretz and Health Minister Ehud Olmert:

[Begin Olmert recording] One must also take the international aspect into account. I am not suggesting we forge our position solely on the basis of such considerations, but at a time when we are exerting really tremendous efforts to prevent the adoption of decisions which could be significantly damaging to Israel; at a time when we are holding delicate, complex, and sensitive contacts with the U.S. Administration in order to make sure that our crucial interests are not harmed, matters must also be evaluated in this context. I am not deluding myself. If some of these crazy bastards had carried out their deeds in the United States they would have been executed. The context, however, and the circumstances are different. The questions we must decide upon are different, and we must reach our decisions on the basis of cool and careful consideration of what is good for our interests. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 16 December in a similar report by Jack Katzenell adds that "it does appear that there is a majority in favor of the imposition of the death penalty for the most serious terrorist crimes, at least in principle."]

[Golan] After the report on the deterioration in the security situation, Prime Minister Shamir briefed the ministers on the talks he held in the United States last week, a report that was described as optimistic by several of the ministers who were present.

Arens Explains Deportations

TA1612161690 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens in the Jerusalem studio by Dan Margalit—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Margalit] The newspapers today reported that the defense establishment, which you head, had recommended deporting 14 Hamas activists, but that the prime minister, due to political considerations, mainly the response in the United States and the West, cut the list down to four names. Do you think this was a mistake?

[Arens] First of all, I do not have to tell you that not everything you read in newspapers is necessarily true.

[Margalit] Was this report untrue?

[Arens] As you can imagine, different proposals of what should be done and how to do it were raised in the relevant discussions. Eventually, we agreed on four deportees, and I think this decision can be explained to the world, including the United States, by saying that when such murders are perpetrated, there is room for every kind of measure deemed effective; the United States would have done the same had a similar deed been perpetrated in the streets of one of its cities.

[Margalit] Would it have been more effective had we deported 14 people, for instance?

[Arens] I have already told you: We agreed that four is the correct number in this instance. I can tell you this: I do not think this will be the last deportation if we have to cope with more such problems.

[Margalit] Likud Knesset Member Yehoshu'a Sagi, a former Intelligence Branch chief, said that the world will scream in any event—whether we deport four or 14. Perhaps he means that the same will happen if we deport 40. Is it true that there would be no difference in world reaction?

[Arens] I see no point in discussing at this point whether the number should have been four, 14, or 400. Four is the number we decided on. If we have further problems in the future, we will make the appropriate decision at that time.

[Margalit] One of the questions arising from this decision is whether we lack sufficient evidence of incitement

to murder against these people, because if we did have proof, we would have put them on trial in court, as we usually do.

[Arens] No, the situation is nothing like that. We are capable of putting them on trial, but our assessment—which is shared by the people who specialize in this field—is that deportation is a better deterrent than court trial.

[Margalit] Does this mean that throwing a person out to south Lebanon is a harsher punishment than putting him in an Israeli prison?

[Arens] I am telling you that this is the experts' opinion, and I share their opinion: Anyone who thinks of perpetrating such a deed should know that people with whom he is linked, those who sent him and incited him, will find themselves across the border within a few days. In my view, this is a deterrent factor, and I believe you will find that the local population thinks the same. [passage omitted]

Levi Meets With Senator Inouye

TA1612165090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister David Levi said he was not worried by the sharp international criticism of Israel's decision to deport four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Commenting on the decision, Levi said that it was a localized action, which came after a chain of barbaric events. Minister Levi met with U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye this afternoon. The senator expressed opposition to the deportations. Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports:

The scope of destructive activity wreaked by the leaders of Hamas obligates us to take exceptional action, or in other words, to get our hands on them. Israel, said Foreign Minister David Levi at the conclusion of his meeting with Senator Daniel Inouye, is a country that abides by the law and there has been no drastic change necessitating large-scale deportations. We asked him whether he did not fear severe international repercussions.

[Begin Levi recording] We know and are aware that there have been protests; however, I would have been more sensitive to them had I heard expressions of shock, protest, or fury when such a murder of innocent people is perpetrated in the most barbaric manner while the people who gave the orders are free to continue their activity. This is something unparalleled in any other country in the world, be it the most democratic of them all. The time has come to change the rules of the game. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Eytan Urges Deportations

TA1412163790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] In the wake of the murders in Yafo, Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan demands that all territories' Arab laborers employed in Israel be dismissed. He told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the Arabs from the territories should be replaced by new immigrants and unemployed people. Minister Eytan intends to raise this matter at the cabinet meeting on Sunday.

The agriculture minister also demands the deportation of all the instigators of riots and the leaders of the intifadah. According to Eytan, the time has come to act firmly and not to be surprised time and again, after the fact, as is frequently the case lately.

Reportage on Planned Temple Mount Demonstration

Milo Discusses Strategy

TA1412210190 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1810 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Interview with Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo by police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov on 14 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kohen-Aharonov] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo, today you held consultations with the police leadership, and conferred with the defense minister. You decided that the number of hours that territories Arabs will be allowed to stay within the Green Line boundaries each day will be shortened. What leads you to believe that this time you will be able to defeat Arab terror?

[Milo] We have to react firmly and unequivocally to such a grave incident, a ruthless act the likes of which we have rarely experienced in the past. It is impossible to have the current situation go on without a reaction, without a determined action; and we shall indeed behave accordingly. The Israel police will adopt very firm measures against the illegal presence of territories' laborers in Israel. We will adopt measures which will involve a change in the hours that territories' laborers stay in Israel. In sum, I would say that unprecedented measures will be adopted by the Israeli police, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and the security forces to cope with the serious and horrendous problem of the terror launched against us currently.

[Kohen-Aharonov] You are referring to illegal stays; but in a great many cases, laborers who have long been employed in plants or businesses in Israel suddenly arise and commit murders for the first time. How will you be able to reduce the possibility of such acts to the bare minimum?

[Milo] It is very important to have a very firm reaction to such acts. The Arab public, the terror elements, should know that when Jews are hurt in such a cruel and criminal manner, the State of Israel will react in a firm and unequivocal manner.

[Kohen-Aharonov] When you talk of such a reaction, do you perhaps intend to recommend the imposition of the death penalty on such murderers?

[Milo] My opinion of this issue was negative in the past. Today I am having second thoughts. If a proposal on capital punishment was raised today, I believe I would support it. I also intend to support ideas and proposals involving firm and harsh measures, including measures which we have not used to date, to cope with this grave phenomenon.

[Kohen-Aharonov] What about deportations?

[Milo] I do not want to address this issue. I can only say I do not rule out any option of firm and determined war against this phenomenon of terror as we witness it today. In the framework of such measures, deportations too are a legitimate tool in my eyes in order to uproot terrorist elements and instigators, both those who stand behind this terror and those who carry it out.

[Kohen-Aharonov] One question on the Temple Mount. What would you do if the Temple Mount Faithful approach the High Court of Justice on Sunday? You decided to forbid them to enter this area for security reasons. However, what if they say they will settle for the Western Wall plaza or the Old City boundaries?

[Milo] I decided on the Temple Mount Faithful issue today following a consultation with senior legal elements. I believe we will be able to explain our position, and it will be well accepted in the High Court of Justice. We must now have a minimum amount of friction and decrease to the minimum the number of inflammatory elements in the area. We shall do so with regard to any element which may agitate order. We have to maintain the public's safety, the safety of Jews as well as Arabs who are not engaged in negative acts of terrorism.

'Massive Mobilization' Planned

TA1612091790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 90 p A5

[Report by Jerusalem correspondent Lili Galili]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Members of the Temple Mount Faithful Movement intend to go to the Temple Mount area tomorrow despite Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo's announcement that the police will not allow them to tour the site. Gershon Solomon, the movement's leader, said activists would in any event go to the Western Wall plaza near Moors' Gate tomorrow morning "in the hope that the minister will revoke his decision." If they are not allowed to tour Temple Mount, they will hold a rally to protest "the capitulation to threats of violence and terror."

They will follow their plans to hold a Hanukkah candle lighting ceremony. Later, they will march with torches and flags through Hagay Street toward Minister Sharon's residence, Damascus Gate, and Mandelbaum Gate, where they will hold a rally to warn "against the loss of Temple Mount and the repartition of Jerusalem." They will erect a monument in memory of the crimes committed by Arabs on Temple Mount last Sukkoth. According to their interpretation of the police's decision, the ban applies only to a tour of Temple Mount but not to a torch march through the Old City. This interpretation contradicts the Israel Police's position that all demonstrations in the eastern part of the city are banned. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that a massive mobilization of settlers and members of political movements ideologically close to the Temple Mount Faithful movement is under way for tomorrow's scheduled activities. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Security Boosted

TA1612182590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The police are sending reinforcements to Jerusalem this evening. Tomorrow morning, the entry of residents from the territories to Jerusalem will be banned. Security forces will be stationed around the Temple Mount, in order to prevent the entry of Arab youths to the mosques.

The Southern District Police commander and the Jerusalem Police commander met today with officials of the Waqf and told them that the Temple Mount Faithful would not be allowed to demonstrate inside the Old City. They called on the Waqf leaders to make every effort to prevent incitement and disturbances.

Correction to Shamir Interviewed on Meeting

TA1412143490

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Shamir Interviewed on Meeting With Bush," published in the 13 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 27-28:

Page 28, column one, first paragraph, first sentence, make read: [Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Stern] Sir, you.... (supplying "passage omitted" notation)

Yasir 'Arafat Pays Official Visit to Amman

Arrival Statement

JN1512131190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1208 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Report on statements by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat upon arrival in Amman on 15 December]

[Text] We begin with the statements made by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to reporters upon arrival in Amman this afternoon. Answering a question on conducting an inter-Arab dialogue to settle the Gulf crisis, Mr. 'Arafat said:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] Undoubtedly this is the major objective at this point in time. As you recall during the quadripartite summit in Baghdad which took place recently, it became clear that there is a call from President Bush for a U.S.-Iraqi dialogue. Our goal, however, is and should always be inter-Arab dialogue—which his majesty the king has talked about on more than one occasion—proceeding from the fact that our problems must be contained within, and solved through, the united Arab family. I wish to add that even if there was a policy favoring an international solution, there cannot be an international solution unless it is crowned by an Arab dialogue, and this dialogue will be manifested in an Arab summit. [end recording]

Answering a question on the continuous postponement of a vote in the Security Council on a draft resolution on the occupied territories, Mr. 'Arafat said:

[Begin recording] This is the U.S. Administration stalling and applying pressure on all members in an attempt to avoid the international conference proposal. On this occasion, [words indistinct] that the seventh article is an American amendment. Now the U.S. Administration is backing out on the amendment it approved itself. Here I ask: If the United States backs down on a simple amendment that it presented itself through its representative in the United Nations when it was chairman, how can we trust it when it says that it will solve the Palestine question after the Gulf crisis is resolved? Therefore, this requires the Arab nation to be more cautious and insist on not allowing a solution to the Gulf crisis except by clearly and frankly linking it with the Palestinian question, the Middle East crisis, the occupation of the Golan Heights, and the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. These things must be made very clear. As the saying goes, once bitten twice shy. And we, the Arab nation, have been bitten by the U.S. Administration scores of times. [end recording]

Confers With King Husayn

JN1512163890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, at al-Nadwah Palace today. They exchanged views on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the importance of continuing political efforts to start an inter-Arab dialogue that will pave the way for a political settlement of the crisis.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. It was attended on the Palestinian side by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, Mahmud Darwish, Muhammad Milhim, Hakam Bal'awi, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Stresses Linkage, Arab Solution

JN1512211190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The final ceremony of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian cultural week was held at the Royal Cultural Center at King Husayn Sports City in Amman today. Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat delivered a speech during the ceremony and awarded al-Quds medals to 60 creative personalities in the field of culture and arts, including poets, intellectuals, writers, journalists, and artists. Another 12 medals were awarded to special cultural institutions. The major points in the Palestinian president's speech are in the following report:

The Palestinian president began his speech by thanking His Majesty King Husayn for patronizing the Jordanian-Palestinian cultural week. He also touched on the role of culture in forming nations and peoples. The Palestinian president condemned the Western troop concentrations in the Gulf area, and said the Arab region is not an arsenal for their weapons. He also reviewed the efforts to solve the Gulf crisis. He said this crisis will not be solved outside the Arab framework. The Palestinian president added:

"The states of the Arab solution will impose their Arab decision in the name of their Arab nation. It should be understood that the states of the Arab solution, which held their first quadripartite meeting in Baghdad a short time ago, their tripartite meeting in Morocco, and other meetings, will decide the Arab fate. They are the states of the Arab solution."

The Palestinian president said that the aim of the Western concentrations is to strike at Iraqi military power, and he said that these threats began many months ago. He also stressed the need to link the region's issues. He rejected calls for separating these issues, and said:

"How can there not be linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question, the occupation of Golan, or the occupation of southern Lebanon? Bush makes linkages. We know that during the past four months, he gave an additional $1,100 million to Israel, which used to receive between $3.8 to $4 billion a year. During the past four months, he has added $1,100 million—$700 million

in military aid and $400 million in housing aid [words indistinct]. They they gave it the Patriot missile. Why did they give them it? Because it is part of the alliance against Baghdad. They gave it Patriot missiles, Apache helicopter aircraft, and submarines. God knows what else they have given it secretly [words indistinct]."

Attends Cultural Event

LD1612194490 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpts] During his visit to the Jordanian capital Amman, the brother president and leader, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, presided over the concluding ceremony of the Palestinian-Jordanian joint cultural days, which were held in the Culture Palace in al-Husayn Youth City, on the occasion of the blessed intifadah entering its fourth year. [passage omitted]

Brother Abu-'Ammar reviewed the situation in the Gulf region, saying: Action is now being taken to formulate a new international system, and now that the Paris agreement has ended the cold war between the two superpowers, these powers have come to store their weapons in the Gulf. But from here I am telling them: You will not have pleasure in this, because the Arab land will be a graveyard for every intruder.

He added: We want to know whether this new international system will be for our good or against us. We want to know our place and role in it. The Arab solution states will be the ones to decide the Arab fate, and it will not be the American states who do so. He pointed out the importance of the emergence of an inter-Arab dialogue for resolving inter-Arab disputes.

The brother president stressed that the naval fleets and the military buildup did not come to defend any Arab in the region, but they had come to control the Arab oil sources. He said: Arab blood is dearer than Arab oil, and our revolutionary option is to be in this trench, the trench of confrontation against Israel and the United States.

He spoke also about the immigration of Soviet Jews into the occupied territories, reviewing its dimensions and dangers to the Arab region at large, and the role of the United States and certain Western states in financing, encouraging, and backing this immigration. He affirmed the need to link the Gulf crisis, the Palestinian question, and the other problems of the region. He said: Our Islamic and Christian sanctities and the blood of our children, our elderly men, and our youths is dearer than all the oil. He also said that this region is being targeted in the hope of bringing it to its knees. But, he said, we will not stoop, and we will not be the new Rome's slaves no matter how high the cost. [passage omitted]

The brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar stated in Amman that any peaceful settlement of the crisis must be crowned by an Arab summit. He added: Any solution must be based on a clear and frank linkage of the Gulf crisis and the Middle East crisis, i.e. the Palestinian question, the Israeli occupation of the Golan and southern Lebanon. He recalled that during the quadripartite meeting in Baghdad, there had been agreement on [the need for] an inter-Arab dialogue. [passage omitted]

Departure Statement

JN1612074690 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this evening at the end of a one-day short working visit to Jordan. In a predeparture statement, 'Arafat said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I was pleased by my meeting with his majesty the king at noon today. During this fruitful meeting, we exchanged everything pertaining to our Arab nation's issues, problems, and aspirations, especially since his majesty the king, together with his fraternal Arab leaders, is trying to achieve a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis under international auspices. On this occasion, I thank his majesty the king for patronizing and opening Palestinian Cultural Week. I also conveyed to him our people's thanks and love inside the occupied territories. Our people there are looking to his majesty and their beloved brothers here in Amman in expression of the distinguished and special relations that link us. We also discussed the positive current Arab endeavors on all levels regarding the U.S. Administration's attempt to retreat from the American-Iraqi dialogue, as well as the grave impact of that retreat, not only on the Gulf but also on the Arab region, because this means a new escalation by the U.S. Administration. We will continue these as well as other endeavors toward an inter-Arab dialogue to overcome all the existing obstacles and achieve a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and the region's crises. [end recording]

He was seen off at the airport by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; a number of PLO Executive Committee members; and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

King Husayn Interviewed on Gulf, U.S. Role

LD1612205990 Paris Antenne 2 Television in French 1900 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Interivew with King Husayn by Veronique Taveau in Amman, date not given; Husayn speaks in English—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] I believe no one is aware of what might happen if a conflict breaks out in this area, the human dimension of such a tragedy, the losses. People must realize what is going to happen, the deep wound which will result from it, not just in the Arab world but for all Muslims and throughout the rest of the world. One must be aware of the economic impact which will affect the entire world, the ecological disaster and its magnitude.

But on the other hand it is so important to realize that everybody is puzzled, everybody is waiting. Everybody is drawing conclusions, and looking closely at the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States. The situation has been very tense up till now, but now if war breaks out I believe that we will find ourselves on the edge of a precipice and no one knows how it will all come out.

[Taveau] The chances of a dialogue between the Americans and the Iraqis appear to be becoming weaker and weaker. Should we be optimistic or pessimistic, in your opinion?

[Husayn] Obviously, the dialogue was a very welcome suggestion and the whole world greeted it with hope. I believe that the dates set for the visit by James Baker to Baghdad were set within the planned time limit and were fixed by the Americans themselves. I hope that they will reach an agreement and that the dialogue will indeed take place.

[Taveau] What are the Americans' intentions about the region, in your opinion?

[Husayn] I have no idea. I have no idea. I hope that the Americans are working for peace and for the resolution of the problems in this region. The United States, if it so wishes, if it wants to, can do much for peace in this region. I hope that it will do so. I will always hope that the chances of peace, justice, respect for human dignity, a peace which respects people's aspirations, will be the strongest. At the moment, I am very concerned by the situation, with things as they are now.

U.S. 'Increasing Tension'; Saddam 'Ready'

JN1512100490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Dec p 16

[Editorial: "Bush Administration Launches New Maneuver"]

[Text] For the past four days the Bush administration has been again working to increase tension in the Arab and international atmosphere and create a climate of war in the Arabian Gulf.

It rejected the Iraqi suggestion on the dates for the dialogue between Baghdad and Washington, and attempted to impose a timetable, which raises doubts and suspicions about its hidden intentions.

It, the Bush administration, is attempting to deflate any Arab initiative that aims at bridging the gap between the conflicting parties and beginning an Arab-Arab dialogue in parallel with the possible Iraqi-U.S. dialogue.

It is inciting and instigating its allies and Arab followers who are directly concerned in the Gulf conflict against entering into a dialogue with the Iraqi leadership or other Arab leaderships that call for an Arab solution to the crisis.

Bear in mind that the Arab solution, as his royal highness the crown prince has stressed, does not conflict with international legitimacy. This reflects the evil intentions of the U.S. Administration and the possibility that it might renege on its declared stand on a dialogue with Iraq.

Otherwise, what does the new U.S., British, and French military buildup in the region mean?!

And what are we to we make of the provocative statements of the secretary of the U.S. Pentagon and his chief of staff, which smack of aggression and give predominance to the military option, especially following Shamir's recent visit to the United States?!

It seems that some U.S. congressmen were right when they stressed that President Bush was not sincere in proposing dialogue with Baghdad, and that an inclination for war dominates his thinking and actions.

Here, we can conclude that the Bush administration was behind the coolness with which Saudi Arabia regarded the Algerian president's tour in the region.

We do not rule out the possibility that the Bush administration may challenge all this international consensus on the need to avoid war, and maneuver to thewart all efforts for a peaceful settlement despite all its protestations about peace.

Iraq proposed a suitable date to begin a dialogue with Washington, and all indications stress its sincerity and concern for making this dialogue succeed in reaching a suitable political solution.

Iraq's suggestion does not mean procrastination or evasion, as Bush claimed while heaping false accusations on Iraq.

Procrastination and evasion are evident in the Bush administration's responses to and categorical rejection of the Iraq suggestion.

In his statement yesterday and in another bout of maneuvering, President Bush said that he is giving peace an additional chance, yet he rejected the date set by Iraq to begin dialogue.

At any rate, Iraq is fully aware of the U.S. maneuvers. The Iraqi leadership, while giving a peaceful settlement the chance it deserves out of its concern to avoid war, is, as President Saddam himself stressed, on full alert and ready for the confrontation at any time Bush chooses.

U.S. Asked To 'Return' Crisis to Arabs

JN1612113590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Dec 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "What Follows Suspending the Iraqi-U.S. Dialogue?"]

[Text] The United States has suspended the talks that were scheduled to be held between President Bush and Tariq 'Aziz in Washington. Therefore, the Iraqi foreign minister will not head for Washington tomorrow [17 Dec] as scheduled. Suspending the dialogue follows Iraq's refusal to heed U.S. pressures designed to impose a specific period in which the Iraqi president could receive U.S. Secretary of State Baker in Baghdad. Hence,

it seems that Washington is attempting to renege on the direct talks with Iraq, which it had proposed. Reneging on its position may suggest that the U.S. proposal was not sincere. It may also be in response to Israeli pressures on the U.S. Administration, during Shamir's recent visit to Washington in particular. In both cases, there is a need to mobilize Arab and world activity to defuse the Gulf crisis and prevent it from exploding due to an irresponsibile U.S. decision that was based on Israel's advice, even if it was covered by the UN Security Council resolutions on the crisis.

It comes to mind that the Arab-Arab dialogue, especially a direct dialogue between the sides to the conflict, is the best means to this, because it will return the crisis to its owners and minimize the U.S. role to a secondary one that does not have the right to initiate moves. Needless to say, Jordan called for this dialogue earlier, and has more than once stressed its importance. Moreover, some Arab leaders have taken steps in this direction, among the most prominent being the Algerian president's recent tour in the region.

The U.S. Administration was not happy with the Arab efforts to resolve the crisis, and sought to plot against it, which is not at all surprising and is in harmony with the U.S.-Israeli approach to using the crisis to strike at Arab military and technical power built by Iraq. The higher pan-Arab interest calls on all directly concerned Arab parties to rise above the concomitants of the crisis and the bitterness that resulted and to courageously respond to Arab efforts which aim at beginning the cherished dialogue and ensuring its success. No doubt, such a dialogue will push the crisis toward the just settlement that is acceptable to all, and will open wide prospects for establishing an Arab reality capable of facing the foreign challenges and having an effective performance that would push the Palestine question toward the long-awaited just and comprehensive solution.

Washington's suspension of dialogue with Iraq should be viewed as a first step in ending U.S. hegemony over the Gulf crisis and replacing the U.S. role toward it with a rapid, effective Arab role that would save the region from the explosion and restore confidence in the Arab ability to resolve their problems among themselves, and thus not allowing others to become a party in them.

Israeli Deportations, U.S. 'Regret' Ridiculed

JN1712103290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
17 Dec 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Israeli Violations Under U.S. Protection"]

[Text] At a time when Washington opposes the passing of a Security Council resolution which could provide the most basic means of protection for the Palestinian people, the Israeli authorities start up a new deportation campaign against the Palestinian people, violating the text and spirit of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which bans resorting to the policies of deportation and expulsion.

Israel was not satisfied with waging large-scale arrest campaigns which included many thousands of people. It did not stop at policies of oppression, isolation, killing, and siege, but more than all that, it went on to implement one of its most racist policies that has been denounced and condemned by the international community. By this we mean the policy of deporting Palestinians from their homes without any charges being made, and without trial.

There is no doubt that the Shamir government, which has been following with great satisfaction the continuous U.S. evasiveness inside the Security Council over the past two months, has been encouraged to take such an inhuman step, especially since the U.S. veto stands ready to defend Israel and prevent any international condemnation of it.

Since we realize that the full political protection which Washington gives the extreme rightist government in Israel is what urges Shamir to ignore all operative laws, norms, and international regulations, we cannot take seriously the U.S. statement of regret over Israel's step so long as these U.S. feelings of regret do not impose any restrictions on these gross Israeli violations of the Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories.

The savage measures taken by the Shamir government during the past few days has largely indicated the Palestinian people's need for protection from the tyranny of the Zionist occupiers. It also proves that the U.S. stand, which defends Israel inside the Security Council, is more akin to practical and tangible U.S. encouragement of Israel; nay, it could be considered its reward for its continuing violations against human rights, whose banner is lifted high by President Bush, except when the issue concerns Palestinians and Arabs.

In view of all this, we call on the Security Council, which will once again convene to look into means of providing the necessary protection for the Palestinian people, to take quick action not against Israel, which has become used to making light of the Security Council's will and totally disregarding its resolutions, but against U.S. prevarication, which intentionally delays, postpones, and procrastinates to keep the Palestinian people's backs exposed to the whips of the Israeli executioner in an attempt to destroy the will of these people and prevent them from struggling for the retrieval of their legitimate national rights.

'Disgust' at Soviet Security Council Conduct

JN1412081390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
14 Dec 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Regrettable Soviet Conduct"]

[Text] The endless obstruction of voting at the Security Council on the resolution concerning protection of the Palestinian people is both painful and regrettable. Likewise, the Soviet conduct at that international body has evoked sorrow at times, but mostly disgust.

We can understand the United States' support for Israel in all events and circumstances in the light of the strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv, which has existed for years. We are also not surprised when the U.S. envoy at the Security Council stands up to defend Zionist falsehoods. Neither are we shocked by the sight of U.S. officials when they stonewall international will and undermine the criteria of justice which are acknowledged worldwide, when the point at issue relates to Israel and its aggressive policies.

But, for the Soviet Union—a big, historical friend of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation—to carry out a subservient role to the United States inside and outside the Security Council, not only toward the Gulf crisis but also toward the Israeli occupation of Arab lands, is something which indeed evokes indignation, coupled with sorrow, over the Soviet state of affairs—especially in light of perestroyka and the openness on the United States.

Although the Soviet Union's facilitation of the ongoing U.S. maneuver at the Security Council and its encouragement to Washington to weasel out of the current international unanimity on the need to ensure protection for the Palestinian people, is something that evokes sorrow, pain, and anger—yet we cannot ignore the egregious, subversive role carried out by Washington at the Security Council in order to provide full political cover for Israeli violations of human rights inside the occupied territories.

This is because Washington, which managed to secure issuance of whatever resolutions it relished against Iraq within the past few weeks, has now launched full-blown diplomatic activity to deprive the Palestinian people of the simplest means of international protection, so as to expose the backs of Palestinians to the whips of a hateful, racist occupier which is daily violating human rights and spilling new pure blood—all of this is taking place just because Washington does not acknowledge that the Arabs have rights which should be maintained; that they have dignity which should be safeguarded; and that there lies a wrath within their breasts that might flare up at any moment.

Prince Hasan Receives UNRWA's Giacomelli

JN1212202090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office this morning Georgio Giacomelli, commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA]. The discussion dealt with the impact the Gulf crisis has had on the Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's care. The conferees also reviewed the means through which coordination and cooperation can take place between UNRWA and other UN affiliated organizations to alleviate the impact the Gulf crisis has had on Palestinian refugees. They also discussed cooperation between Jordan and UNRWA in this respect.

The secretary general of the Interior Ministry and the director of the Foreign Ministry Palestinian Affairs Department attended the meeting.

House Member for Strikes, Foreign Withdrawal

JN1612082690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] House of Representatives member 'Isa al-Rimuni gave a press conference at noon today. He talked about the critical and fateful stage through which our Arab nation is passing. He called for defusing the volatile situation in the Arabian Gulf and stressed his majesty the king's proposal to solve this issue within the Arab home. More details in the following report sent by our correspondent for parliamentary affairs Jawad al-'Umari:

[Begin al-'Umari recording] During his press conference, House of Representatives member al-Rimuni proposed several ideas to contribute to peace and solve the Gulf crisis through peaceful means. These ideas are: Declaring a one-hour comprehensive strike throughout the Arab and Islamic world on 2 January in protest of the U.S. aggression and in solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people, and declaring a comprehensive strike throughout the Arab and Islamic world on 12 January to express the Arab and Islamic nation's rejection of the Security Council's resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

Al-Rimuni then urged all popular and national forces and figures and the local, Arab, and Islamic professional unions, parties, and organizations to hold a peace rally at a point on the Jordanian-Iraqi borders and then to go to the Iraqi-Saudi-Kuwait border area to form a human shield to prevent an explosion of the situation. He also urged governments to provide all kinds of facilities for delegations participating in the rally. He also urged the formation of official and popular delegations to travel to world capitals to invite the peace-loving forces to participate in the rally. He called on Friday preachers and leaders of the Christian sects to mobilize the masses and invite them to start jihad and to contact all the Islamic and Christian bodies all over the world to stand as one front in order to bring about peace in the Arabian Gulf. He also urged the Kuwaiti people and the Arabian Gulf peoples to pressure their governments into urging a withdrawal of the foreign forces and allowing the Arab countries to solve their differences by themselves. He also called for considering 15 January, the deadline set by the Security Council for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, an international day for peace. [end recording]

Water Talks Called by Israel 'Rejected'

JN1712034890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—A senior Jordanian official has categorically rejected calls by Israel for bilateral negotiations over water sharing and some aspects of the territorial

dispute between the Kingdom and the Jewish state saying all such negotiations should come only within the framework of a comprehensive solution to the fundamental Arab-Israeli conflict.

"What they are seeking is bilateral talks with us, and we are not prepared to do so outside the umbrella of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the United Nations Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)," the official said.

"There is nothing for Jordan to discuss with Israel at this point in time in the absence of an international conference," reaffirmed the official, referring to recent calls by Israeli officials for talks with Jordan on sharing the region's water resources.

"Indeed there are purely Jordanian-Israeli dimensions of the conflict, but we are not ready to initiate any discussions with Israel until and unless the Palestinian-Israeli dimensions—the roots of the conflict—are addressed," said the official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

"The Israelis are seeking to splinter th overall conflict and arrive at bilateral solutions without solving the Palestinian problem," the official said.

"This is an old game, and we are not willing to play."

The official also accused Israel of encroaching further into the Kingdom's territory, beyond the 1967 ceasefire lines.

"They have been moving steadily and slowly further into Jordanian territory over the years," he said. "In al-Himmah area in the north, they moved in as much as six kilometres. In effect, they have moved forward the ceasefire line between the two sides."

With the additional territory occupied in the 1967 war, apart from Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights, over 600 kilometres of Jordanian territory are under Israeli control, according to the official.

According to a U.N. source, the United Nations Truce Observers (UNTSO) who supervise the armistic between Jordan and Israel "are aware of the (Israeli) encroachment and they have raised the issue, formally and informally, with the Israelis."

"Every time, the Israelis reject the charge and challenge the observers to prove the encroachment through geographical evidence," said one source. "It is a very difficult task, in view of the nature of the terrain and in the absence of a definitely outlined demarcation line with geographical features," the source added.

According to the Jordanian official, Israel should discuss issues related to water resources in the occupied territories with the Palestinian people.

"If the Israelis are seeking to involve Jordan in talks over water resources in the West Bank, then they should understand that the party they should address is not Jordan but the Palestinan people since the land is Palestinian, the water is Palestinian and the right to the resources is Palestinian," the official said.

As far as Jordan is concerned, the official added, "We are ready to discuss water in the north, the Jordanian territory under occupation, and other issues directly related to Jordanian sovereignty and territorial integrity simultaneously with talks between the Israelis and the Palestinans."

In addition to public calls on Jordan to enter talks, Israel has also been sending diplomatic feelers to the Kingdom for bilateral negotiations but Amman has rebuffed such efforts, diplomatic sources said.

"They wanted further discussions on al-Wahdah dam, Jordan Valley water, security issues across the demarcation line and other aspects of the conflict," said one diplomat. "But Jordan refused to be drawn into the talks, and that appears to have been one of the reasons which prompted Israel to undermine World Bank financing for al-Wahdah by putting up its own claim to al-Yarmuk waters," he added.

Jordanian officials have said that the World Bank, which had initially expressed willingness to extend financing for the dam project on the Jordanian-Syrian border across the al-Yarmuk River, had subsequently informed Jordan that the Israeli "claim" to the river waters should be settled before the bank could extend funds to finance the project.

According to reports, Israel has depleted almost all of its reservoirs and is pumping water from aquifers in the West Bank to meet its needs. The Israeli government, alarmed by a dramatic drop in the level of water, has also ordered a halt to pumping water from the Sea of Galilee. Israeli and other regional experts say that the Jewish state will have to import water if there is another drought year.

Rafael Eitan, the Israeli agriculture minister, suggested last month that Jordan and Israel cooperate in building at least two water plants near the demarcation line, to supply water to both sides, and a third one in the occupied Gaza Strip. Jordanian officials said at the time that the call was not even worth responding to in the absence of any concrete move towards addressing the fundamental political issues involved.

EC Grants Aid for Water, Agricultural Projects

JN1712134390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Amman, 17 Dec (PETRA)—The EC has decided to grant Jordan $8.4 million to finance two projects connected with water usage, exploitation, and cultivating the arid regions in the east of the kingdom.

A press statement issued by the EC office in Amman said that the first project deals with the study of water sources in the al-Hamad and al-Sirhan basins at a cost of $5.6 million. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in cooperation with experts from the EC and local companies.

The second project, whose cost amounts to $2.8 million, deals with studying means of cultivating the arid regions where the average rainfall is less than 200 mm per annum. The Ministry of Agriculture will supervise the project together with the School of Agriculture at the University of Jordan and the European Agriculture Institute.

The statement notes that the EC contribution in support of Jordan comes within the framework of its cooperation with the Jordanian Government to develop the water and agricultural sectors in Jordan.

It is noteworthy that the new European grant for Jordan is part of the current third protocol, previously signed between Jordan and the EC, under which the EC will grant Jordan $100 million.

Police Thwart Attempt To Smuggle Flour

JN1612091290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Amman—A bedouin security patrol and the border security men have thwarted an attempt by several people to smuggle 230 sacks of flour out of the country.

Islamic Students Disrupt Poet's Recital

JN1512082290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Dec 1990 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Renowned Arab poet and writer Ahmad 'Ali Sa'id, better known as Adonis, came under attack by Islamist university students Friday night as he recited his controversial poetry at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). Syrian-born Adonis was provided with tight security as he left the conference hall where his recital was disrupted by shouts of "Allahu Akbar" from some 40 bearded university students who described Adonis' poetry as "blasphemous." All doors of the RCC were locked and about 30 uniformed police and a number of plainclothed security men tried to quiet down the protestors, but stopped short of clashing when the Islamist youth walked out chanting, "No God but Allah; Adonis is the enemy of Allah." The audience of about 30 gave Adonis a standing ovation as the youth left the hall. The Muslim Brotherhood movement denied that it was responsible for the protest.

Reportage on Algerian President Bendjedid's Visit

Presidential Office Statement

NC1612191990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Statement issued by the President's Information Office on 16 December]

[Text] His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid paid a working and friendly visit to Lebanon where he was received by President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The two exchanged views on the situation in the region in the light of developments in the Arab Gulf and the existing possibilities.

President Bendjedid arrived at the Lebanese border from Damascus at 1200. He was met there by Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and Information and Justice Minister Edmond Rizq, who accompanied him to Beirut. An official reception, in which President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, the ministers, the deputies, and high-ranking civilian and military officials took part, was accorded to him at the presidential residence in al-Ramlah al-Bayda'. The Algerian president was accompanied by Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali; Mohamed Sahnoun, the president's adviser for diplomatic affairs; and the Algerian ambassador in Beirut.

After a short rest, the two presidents moved to a working lunch which was attended by Prime Minister al-Huss, Speaker al-Husayni, the ministers, Foreign Ministry Secretary Suhayl Shammas, Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, and Arab League Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

President Bendjedid expressed pain at the devastation he saw on the roads leading to Beirut. He promised to extend all support to Lebanon to consolidate the march of peace that has begun with the implementation of Greater Beirut. More steps will follow until the state imposes its authority on all Lebanese territory.

President al-Hirawi thanked the Algerian president for his visit to Beirut because it is an absolute indication that Lebanon has entered the phase of peace and stability. Al-Hirawi also thanked Algeria for its support and its continuing call on brothers and friends to help the Lebanese state in its efforts to rebuild.

The Lebanese and Algerian delegations then held talks, exchanging views on all local and regional developments. In the evening President al-Hirawi said goodby to his great guest with the same warmth with which he received him. He accompanied him to Beirut airport where President Bendjedid boarded a plane for Cairo.

Meets With Al-Asad

LD1712115490 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Beirut, 17/12/90 (APS)—Political talks between Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Hafiz al-Asad which, in two sessions totalled more than five hours, were qualified on the Algerian side as "frank and constructive." These talks, it was noted, centered on all the problems of the area and those related to the Gulf crisis. In this context, the two sides analyzed all aspects of this problem, its implications and its consequences. The exchange of views also centered on possibilities to be implemented so as to improve the situation in Lebanon. In this context, the two sides examined the return to legality in Lebanon and its implication on the Palestinian question which requires a common efforts of the Arab nation and the international community, a communique of views was reached about this point.

Concerning the Gulf crisis, important exchanges of view were held between Presidents Bendjedid and Al-Asad.

In Beirut, where the arrival of the Algerian president created the great surprise (this is the first time a foreign head of state arrives here since about 20 years), Algerian-Lebanese talks enabled to appreciate the difficult but progressive return of peace in this country affected by a fratricidal war. The future action will enable relations with the main concerned sides, to conceive peaceful solutions likely to guarantee the restoration of legality. In this difficult action, Lebanon really needs the material and financial help of all those who are in favor of the reconstruction of this country and the settlement of other questions.

This Arab solidarity and that of other countries of the international community is determined to solve the equation of Lebanon that has been partly devastated but that still includes potentialities to recover peace and understanding. In this way, which is really difficult, the Lebanese officials did not hide their will to act to restore the credibility of the state.

They expressed their joy about the visit of President Chadli Bendjedid to which they grant a very high consideration. Lebanese President Ilias al-Hirawi welcomed his Algerian counterpart with fervor and declared that this visit "is the greatest contribution Lebanon expected." This visit, the Lebanese president hoped, will open the way to visits of other heads of state.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1612174890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The Lebanese-Algerian summit talks between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid ended a short time ago. President al-Hirawi saw off his distinguished guest at the temporary presidential headquarters. The Algerian president left for Beirut International Airport en route to Cairo where he will hold talks with Egyptian President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

The summit talks dealt with the latest developments in Lebanon, its future, and Algeria's assistance to Lebanon.

This assistance will help Lebanon accomplish the security and peace that has begun with the Greater Beirut Plan.

On receiving President Bendjedid, President al-Hirawi said: I welcome him to his second home. I emphasize our strong fraternal and friendly ties with fraternal Algeria. I hope that his visit denotes a good start for future visits.

President Bendjedid said: First, I would like to express our appreciation for, and the Algerian people's greetings to, the fraternal Lebanese people. Perhaps my visit is symbolic, but I wanted to express Algeria's sincere solidarity with you. We were upset to see the destruction caused by war. I am confident that the fraternal and friendly Lebanese people can, thanks to their sons and the well-known ingenuity of the Lebanese people, overcome all ordeals and difficulties with the help from the Arab nation that must be given to Lebanon under the current circumstances.

President Bendjedid went on to say: On behalf of Algeria, I reiterate our solidarity with and support for the fraternal Lebanese people. We will always be on the side of the Lebanese Government and people. I hope that the brothers in Lebanon will marshal their efforts to build their homeland and will demonstrate brotherly forgiveness in the one society and family, regardless of the differences among the Lebanese sides. Armed with this cohesion, you will overcome the difficulties and hurdles experienced by the Lebanese people in the past, particularly during the destructive wars. Greetings to the fraternal Lebanese people, greetings to my brother the president, and greeting to all the officials in this fraternal country. We support you and will continue to support you through thick and thin.

Asked if he believes that circumstances are suitable to extend the Greater Beirut Plan to involve all of Lebanon with Algeria's help, President Bendjedid said: The Lebanese people are better placed to understand matters more than we are. We support, encourage, and bless all steps for Lebanon's unity, solidarity, prosperity, and progress.

Israeli-Resistance Clashes Reported in South

NC1612112790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] National resistance fighters launched a rocket attack against positions held by the Israeli enemy and his agents in Tallat 'Alma al-Sha'b in the western sector of south Lebanon at dawn today.

Violent clashes involving light-caliber weapons and rockets ensued between the resistance fighters and the enemy forces.

Meanwhile, clashes took place between resistance fighters and an agent Lahd militia patrol on the dirt road linking Yatar and Wadi Bayt Lif. Following the clashes, which continued until 0600, three enemy helicopters intervened and searched Wadi Maryam near the town of Yatar. In the meantime, Israel enemy artillery shelled the outskirts of the towns of al-Butun, Zibqin, Yatar, and Sribbin from Jabal Humayyid.

According to reports received from the South, Israeli helicopters were still conducting concentrated attacks on Wadi Maryam with surface to air rockets at 0900 today; resistance fighters confronted the helicopters with anti-aircraft fire. Flames are rising from the forests between the western and central sectors in the South.

In another development, the town of Qabrikha came under violent 155-mm artillery shelling from the positions held by Israeli occupation forces in Tallat al-'Abbas at 2200 last night, while two helicopters searched the area.

Three Reported Killed

NC1612144090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] According to security sources, Palestinian fedayeen clashed with Israeli soldiers in the occupied border zone today, Sunday. The sources said that three Palestinians were killed and two Israeli soldiers were wounded in the confrontation near the village of Marwahin, one km north of the borders with occupied Palestine.

Other security sources said that fedayeen belonging to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine fought with an Israeli force for several hours near Ramyah, three km east of Marwahin.

The sources said that the Palestinian fedayeen were heading toward occupied Palestine when they were spotted and surrounded by some 50 Israeli troops who were airlifted to the area by helicopters.

Two DFLP Men Killed in Attack on Lahd Patrol

NC1712134090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] In the south, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] today attacked a Lahd militia patrol in Wadi (Tannur) in the western sector of the occupied strip.

The militia radio admitted to the attack but did not [as heard] disclose its losses, saying that two DFLP members were martyred in this clash.

Algeria's Bendjedid Visits Damascus

APS Previews Agenda

LD1612131190 Algiers APS in English 1057 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 16 Dec 90 (APS)—Damascus is the fifth stage of President Chadli's tour to the Middle East and the Gulf. He is due to exert his efforts to reconcile between points of view with President al-Asad for an Arab-Arab dialogue.

Informed circles consider that the calendar of Algeria-Syrian talks will comprise two sections. The first is related to the situation in the [words indistinct] in the context of such an acute crisis. As for the second [word indistinct] it is [word indistinct] to the progressive establishment of peace in Lebanon and its predictable implications on the Palestinian issue.

Concerning the first point, it has been recalled that the climate should be [word indistinct] up, first between Arab countries before reaching a consensus that could strengthen PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) position on the international scene. At a time when the international community discusses at the UN about a conference upon the Middle East, a conference obviously involving only concerned parties, their contribution should be orientated towards a common approach that could give the Palestinian people their rights back. [sentence as received]

This large consultation involves both Algeria and Syria within a common vision upon the future of the region. Furthermore, Algerian informed circles stated that "Arab position should be coherent at a time when a lot of dangers are threatening Iraq. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Stressing Algeria's attachment to international legitimacy concerning Kuwait's annexation, the same sources noted that risks of a potential confrontation, are indeed a danger for security and stability in all countries of the region. These risks, as President Chadli repeated it in every visited capital, must at any price be warded off by opening a direct or indirect dialogue with concerned parties.

Concerning this point, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, pointed out that dates of American-Kuwaiti negotiations is "not so important" It is nothing but secondary, what is important is these conversations. Ghazali, while addressing Algerian journalists aboard the presidential plane between Muscat and Damascus, reiterated his conviction that "Dialogue is the unique way that could find a peaceful solution to the conflict. [no closing quotation marks as received]

On Friday [14 December] in Tehran, President Chadli Bendjedid launched a warning as regards the "disastrous consequences of a war affirming with a serious tone, that whoever takes the war initiative would be a criminal" would hold a heavy responsibility in front of mankind and history. [quotation marks as received]

It has been understood here and there, from Amman to Damascus going through Baghdad, Tehran and Muscat, that the perspectives of peace and war are more than ever on the same distance in this race against time, as it has been set up by the UN Security Council. President Chadli Bendjedid requested from all the leaders he visited to promote the peace conditions and stability, otherwise the Arab world in spite of all the obstacles would go through an unfortunate step of crumble.

Arrives 15 Dec

JN1512170290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Damascus at 1600 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Heading those receiving him at Damascus International Airport was President Hafiz al-Asad. Also present to receive him were Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in Algiers Dr. 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Dahhak, and Algerian Ambassador in Damascus 'Abdelkader al-Hadjar. [passage omitted]

President Bendjedid is accompanied by an official delegation including Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali and Mohamed Sahnun, the president's adviser on political affairs.

The two presidents, Hafiz al-Asad and Chadli Bendjedid, held a meeting attended by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for the Arab Syrian side, and by Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali; Mohamed Sahnun, political adviser to President Bendjedid; and Algerian Ambassador in Damascus 'Abdelkader al-Hadjar for Algeria.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN1512190090 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid resumed their talks at 1800 today in a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace.

The talks dealt with the Arab situation in general and the Gulf crisis and its developments in particular.

Presidents Meet Further

JN1612171490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1618 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] At 1030 today, President Hafiz al-Asad and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid resumed their talks in a meeting at the Presidential Palace.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali.

During the meeting, the two presidents completed discussion of the topics they discussed in their two meetings yesterday, Saturday, concerning the Arab situation in general and the Gulf crisis and its developments and possible consequences in particular.

The meeting also dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Emphasis was placed on the centrality of this subject and the need to intensify efforts to implement the international resolutions in a manner that protects and guarantees all Arab rights.

Regarding the situation in the Gulf, the two presidents stressed their desire for a peaceful solution through the Iraqi troops' withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government, which would spare the region, and Iraq in particular, eventual major tragedies.

The two presidents analyzed the Arab situation thoroughly and agreed that, after the developments in the Gulf problem, the possibilities for achieving a solution distinct from the international solution have diminished, and after the passage of time and the issuance of international resolutions it is no longer possible to find a solution except within the framework of the international solution. Hence, the importance of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait emerges to serve pan-Arab interest and respond to the desire of all sincere people in the Arab nation.

Foreign Ministers Discuss Gulf

JN1512190290 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1841 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali this evening.

During the meeting they discussed developments in the situation in the region in light of the new changes in the Gulf crisis.

Benjedid Departs

JN1612124190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid left Damascus at 1330 today following a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at the western entrance to Damascus by President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Sends Cable Following Visit

JN1612190490 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has sent the following cable to President Hafiz al-Asad after his departure from Damascus:

As I leave fraternal Syria, I am pleased to express to you, on my own behalf and on behalf of my delegation, our greatest appreciation for the brotherly care and friendly feelings you accorded us since we set foot in the old, hospitable city of Damascus. These feelings reflect honestly the exemplary and distinguished relations between our two peoples and countries.

I am also pleased to express my appreciation for the analyses and opinions made by your excellency and for the lengthy and brotherly talks we had about the principal Arab and international issues, at the head of which is the Palestine question, and about the major challenges facing our Arab nation today, whose grave consequences may not only affect the Gulf region, but also the entire Arab world.

In this context, I would like to reaffirm, once again, the need to pool all Arab efforts to pave the way for a suitable atmosphere for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis and avoid anything that may weaken the resources of any Arab country or infringe upon its security, because this will hamper the security and destiny of the entire Arab nation.

I would also like to reaffirm to your excellency Algeria's readiness and determination to bolster the ties of brotherhood and cooperation between our two countries.

Finally, I wish your excellency good health and happiness, and to the fraternal Syrian people further progress and prosperity, beseeching God Almighty to protect our Arab nation and unite its ranks against the dangers facing us to serve its supreme interests and guarantee support for Arab rights.

Bangladesh

11th Advisor Takes Oath of Office

BK1612164190 Hong Kong AFP in English
0959 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 16 (AFP)—Bangladesh's Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed appointed his 11th advisor on Sunday, the official BSS News Agency said.

A.K.M. Musa, a former civil servant, became the 11th member of the Council of Advisors whose main task is to help Mr. Ahmed's interim government to ensure free and fair parliamentary polls scheduled for March 2.

The ministries allocated were:

Finance—Kafiluddin Ahmed

Foreign Affairs—Fakhruddin Ahmed

Health and Family Welfare—M.A. Majeed

Education—Zillur Rahman Siddiqi

Law and Justice—Justice Mohammad Abdul Khaleque

Communications, Post and Telecommunications—A.B.M.G. Kibria

Civil Aviation, Tourism and Shipping—Rafiqul Islam

Planning, Irrigation, Water Resources and Flood Control—Rehman Sobhan

Energy and Works—Wahiduddin Ahmed

Cultural Affairs, Social Welfare, Women's Affairs and Sports—Alamgir M.A. Kabir

Industry, Jute and Textile—A.K.M. Musa

The council members are barred from running for office for a year. Mr. Ahmed, Bangladesh's chief justice, took over as the country's 10th president on December 6, the day Hussain Mohammad Ershad stepped down after a mass campaign demanding his resignation.

Parliamentary Elections Scheduled for 2 Mar

BK1412153890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The countrywide parliamentary elections will be held on the 2d of March next year. This was officially announced in Dhaka tonight. Detailed election schedule will be announced by the Election Commission soon. After assuming the responsibility on the 6th of this month, the acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, pledged to the nation that elections will be held within 90 days from the date of dissolving parliament.

Nomination Deadline Set

BK1512162490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] The Election Commission has announced the detailed schedule for parliamentary elections to be held on the second of March next year. Nomination papers are to be filed with returning officers or assistant returning officers or with both on Thursday, the 10th of January. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held only by the returning officers on Saturday, the 12th of January. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is the 21st of January.

Awami Leader Pledges To Avenge Father's Death

BK1512144490 Hong Kong AFP in English
1422 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Dec 15 (AFP)—A top Bangladeshi political leader Saturday renewed her pledge to try and punish those who killed her father, slain president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Sheikh Hasina Wajed also urged the country's military, whom she praised for taking a "decisive step" to help oust President Hussain Mohammad Ershad this month, not to allow themselves to be used by people with "political ambitions." Sheikh Hasina, now chief of her father's Awami League party, was addressing thousands of slogan-chanting supporters at Pantha Path road. "On the eve of our 19th victory day we pledge not to allow the blood of the father of the nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to go in vain and will punish those who killed him as well as establish democracy," she said.

Sheikh Mujib and several family members were killed in a bloody military coup on August 15, 1975, launched by four majors who later went in to exile but have since returned to Bangladesh. At least 3,600 Bangladeshi soldiers, including 600 officers, have died since 1975 because they were being "used" by leaders with "political ambitions," she said. [passage omitted].

Sheikh Hasina, whose party is expected to win the largest number of seats in upcoming elections, said the people expected the armed forces to play a responsible role. Sheikh Hasina said she chose the venue of the victory rally because it was there that she delivered the constitutional outline for Mr. Ershad to step down on November 6, a month before his fall. [passage omitted]

Return of Exiled Politician Reported

BK1612161590 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Valiant freedom fighter Abdul Kader Siddiqui returned home today after more than 15 years of self exile in India. Thousands of people gathered at the Dhaka airport to receive him.

Ershad Not Permitted To Attend Friday Prayers

BK1412130290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 14 (AFP)—Security police orders prevented ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad from attending Friday prayers, the first he is known to have missed since he seized power in a 1982 military coup, police said. "We have not received any orders from the top to permit him (Mr. Ershad) to go to the mosque to join other Moslems for friday prayers," said one police officer guarding him.

Mr. Ershad, 60, who was formally put under house arrest Wednesday in a government-owned house in a posh Dhaka suburb, is thought not to have missed a single Friday prayer since he seized power. National television had shown him until his fall last week giving sermons on politics and family planning in most mosques across Bangladesh. The prayer is compulsory for all Moslems.

Security sources said the president was free to move inside the house but was not allowed to go out to the garden. "It's a pity (the former president's son) Shaad, had no bed to sleep on and passed the last two nights on a couch," the sources said, adding that their food was being delivered in lunch boxes. Mr. Ershad's wife, Raushan, remained out of sight, but the son could be seen moving around the house, one guard said. Among would-be visitors who were turned away at the gate of the villa Friday were Mrs. Ershad's mother and niece, he added. Police on duty said the situation was calm, although they said Road No. 84 had become a "very busy road."

Envoy to Japan Recalled, Envoy to France Quits

BK1712134690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 17 (AFP)—The Bangladeshi ambassador to Japan, Hedayetul Huq, has been recalled and the ambassador to France, Tozammel Huq, has resigned, a foreign office source said here Monday. "A message was sent to Mr. Hedayetul Huq today (Monday), and Mr. Tozammel Huq's resignation has been accepted," the source said.

The ambassador to France, an appointee of ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, had been sent on a two-year term in 1987 which was renewed last year for a similar period, he added. It was not immediately known who would replace the two diplomats, but the moves came as the interim government here reviewed "controversial" envoys, a euphemism for those considered close to Mr. Ershad.

The ambassador to Tokyo, who is unrelated to Mr. Tozammel Huq, is a career diplomat but considered a "close associate" of Mr. Ershad.

Foreign office officials had demanded that acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed's government streamline the service and recall all officials appointed "irregularly."

The first ambassador to be recalled after Mr. Ershad's fall was his brother-in-law A.H.G. Mohiuddin, Bangladesh's permanent representative to the United Nations, and sources said several junior diplomats had also been ordered home.

Iran

Mohtashemi Says Syria Will Not Fight in Gulf

LD1512145690 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15 IRNA—Iran's former ambassador to Syria says Damascus will never engage itself in a war in the Persian Gulf. "Syria is looking for business," he said in an interview published today.

'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a Majles deputy and ex-minister of the Interior, told KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in an interview that by dispatching troops to Saudi Arabia, "Syria also wants to achieve a political goal."

He further said the total Syrian troop strength in Saudi Arabia is estimated at 10,000 "which is no match for the one million man Iraqi army."

Syria is among the countries which have dispatched troops to Saudi Arabia following the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, to join the Western and mostly American forces there.

Asked to comment on the propaganda campaign launched by Washington over the presence of Syrian troops alongside American forces in Saudi Arabia, Mohtashemi said, "Syria is not a model for us. We should not approve or accept whatever Syria says or does."

On the fate of the Palestinian groups based in Syria after a Washington-Damascus rapprochement, Mohtashemi said, "...the major Palestinian organisations are now in Tunisia, not Syria. Even if they live in Syria, nothing will change.

"If any country (Syria) is improving ties with Washington, this does not mean the status of the Palestinians should change drastically. Nasser's Egypt is now Mubarak's Egypt but what changes have occurred in the destiny of the Palestinians? Could the change of policy in Egypt from the former to the present prevent the intifada?"

Mohtashemi criticized Iran's "weak" support for the Palestinian uprising and the Lebanese Islamic movements, saying "I do not have a positive assessment."

"There have been initiatives in Lebanon and Afghanistan with respect to the Islamic revolutions there. But nothing serious has been done for Palestine."

"I think we should internationalize the intifada. We must start to support the Palestinians' uprising, economically. We must ratify a law by which we regularly finance the intifada and also ask other countries to do so. We must provide military training for the Palestinians."

We hoped that with the ratification of a law passed in the Majles recently to extend practical support for the Palestinians "the present weak trend may change."

On the fate of the Lebanese Muslim revolutionary groups, particularly the hezbollah, in the wake of the recent disarming of all militias in the war-torn country, Mohtashemi said, "if the present situation continues, that is if the Maronite government of Lebanon enhances its foothold in Lebanon and expands its jurisdiction outside greater Beirut, to other regions in Lebanon, the condition of Islamic groups will worsen daily..."

"If the Maronite government is overthrown, then there is a chance for Muslims. There are two choices: either the Muslim majority controls the government, or the Maronites slaughter Muslims and then fully expand their control over Lebanese affairs under the present conditions of neither war, nor peace, between the Islamic and non-Islamic groups. But there is the possibility of a change, because the next move to be taken by the Maronite government will either force the Muslims again to retreat, or in order to hold on to their positions, resist and fight."

Musavi-Ardebili Delivers Friday Prayers

LD1412155290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1208 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili at Tehran University on 14 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the second sermon I thought I would make two or three points, although perhaps the points I will make will be nothing new. I will just express my views. When one reviews the events in the world of Islam, in regional countries, in Muslim-dwelling areas today one sees nothing hopeful or satisfactory. There are problems in Muslim-dwelling countries, headed by the military presence of the great Satan [United States]. That is apparently one problem, but it is dozens, or hundreds of problems [as heard].

The Islamic revolution slapped, punished, exposed and pushed it aside. It retreated one step, but then found an excuse and came two steps forward. Now it has come with about half a million troops and that evil military power and has captured the area. When the United States came, it said: I am about to attack; I will attack within the hour. In my Friday prayers sermon—I do not remember if it was on 'Ashura or the following Friday—I said that there would be no war in the Persian Gulf; the United States lies. There will neither be a war, nor has it come to fight. It is a power struggle, an economic struggle. It has come to make a foothold, to take away the oil, to sabotage European unity, to put on a show of strength for her friends. Her interests are one thousandfold.

Now, one can say that the United States has attained all her goals. But, what has befallen us, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates? Oil has become more expensive; industrialized countries are importing energy at more than twice the cost; Saudi Arabia is taking it from Japan with one hand and giving it to the United States with the other. The United States could not obtain so much money from Japan, Germany, or the industrialized countries. That is her income. Her deployment of forces is also free. The victim is Kuwait.

It has created a crisis in the world for a certain period. Contemporary history shows that that is the role of colonialism. Sometimes it solves its problems through military means, and sometimes through political means, and at other times by creating crises. It creates a crisis, controls it, and thus solves its problems.

It has gradually reached the conclusion that war is inevitable, but not now; that is, it must wait and see if she could make a deal with Saddam. They are haggling about the number of days. It is a question of giving concessions, islands and oil fields to Saddam. If they give him the island and the oil field, and the United States sits tight with half a million [troops], God knows what will happen to the Muslim countries.

Saddam is well known; he is not new on the scene. Iran, Iraq, and everybody else have known Saddam for many years. Saddam plus a number of islands, oil fields and the concessions he has received; yes, Europe would like that. They celebrate it, write about it in their newspapers, as if saying that, God willing, there will not be a war. Yesterday the regional countries were scared of war, and today about peace, concessions, compromise and behind-the-scene conspiracies, wondering what they [the West] are cooking up for them. That was one point.

On the other side, for many years they [the West] have inflicted a wound on Islam, named Palestine. Today we all know the situation in Palestine. When the free world, those supporters of human rights nurture treacherous thoughts, this is how they think; that for many years the Palestinians should sacrifice their children, daughters, youths, old people, homes and lives. That one side should fight with stones and the other with bullets. That one side should do nothing to the other, and for the latter to kill the former. And then whenever the world wants to say anything, the United States, that supporter of human rights, would say: I will veto it, do not say anything.

I wish this idea, that is gradually appearing as a result of the Islamic revolution, had been around since the beginning, that the only way is for all Muslim countries to give diplomatic, financial, military, verbal and humanitarian support to Palestine.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has so enunciated—the eminent leadership has graciously said so, and so have the president and everyone else: That is its proclaimed policy. It has stated its willingness to assist in all those issues. The others should also come the same distance. They should state their preparedness. [They should say] Now how much are you planning to donate, and we will also donate our share. What humanitarian assistance are

you going to provide, and we will provide our share. They should tell the truth. They shouldn't merely talk. They shouldn't merely chant slogans. By God, if the United States sees a concerted movement by the Muslim-populated regions.... [changes thought] You saw for yourselves how when Saddam displayed some stubbornness, Bush failed to say: After all, I am a man, and having issued such threats [against Saddam] yesterday, today, I cannot say: Well, no! today, if your minister of war, or your so and so minister, [corrects himself] foreign minister, comes here, we are willing to talk with him; but let him come two days earlier. No sir! They [the Americans] are retreating, they are retracting. Well, what if they do retreat? Are we not prepared to assist the Muslims? Are we not prepared to do all that? If not, then we shouldn't chant slogans. Iran has already announced [its preparedness], and I hope that such actions have also begun in the other countries. If such actions achieve some kind of result, God willing, one day, [sentence unfinished] and [on that day] the United States will learn that it has lost all of them. Until yesterday, you had seen the situation in Arabestan [Saudi Arabia]. Today, the United States has announced that Kuwait has paid 2.5 billion [U.S. dollars], and then when it is asked how much Arabestan has paid, it says: That has been a very generous amount. We do not know what they mean by generous; how much has it paid? Well, you who display such generosity, the Palestinians are also human beings, they are also God's creations.

That is one calamity, and another is that of India which is also another case. These are the problems faced by the world of Islam. There was a letter written by Seyyed Jamala'din Asad-Abadi to the late Mirza-Shirazi, during the tobacco war, [corrects himself] after the tobacco war. [reference to closure of British tobacco company after 1898 fatwa, religious edict, banned purchase of British-manufactured tobacco] [passage omitted] He had written [to Mirza-Shirazi, who issued the fatwa]. Before your fatwa, England was under the impression that it had devoured [as heard] Islamic countries; that it had suffocated them. That it had swallowed them beyond retrieval and that it would no longer have any problems in the Islamic countries. With your fatwa, the English shed their self-delusion, waking up to the reality. England realized that it still has a very strong enemy to contend with, which if any day chooses to make a move, on that day England will suffer a humiliating defeat. Then he continued the letter by saying to the late Mirza: I want to warn you of a danger, so that you may be careful. After this [fatwa], England may not sleep for decades until it has crushed you. Be careful, since England most certainly plans to crush you. If you fail to maintain your preparedness, your strength; if you fail to see their diplomacies, and fail to have sufficient information, with a weak movement, then you will suffer in the hands of the English.

[Audience chants "God is great, Khomeyni is the leader, death to those opposing the rule of the jurisprudence, death to America, death to England, death to the hypocrites and Saddam, death to Israel. Our slogan is Hezbollah, death to America"]

Please, please gentlemen, may God grant you success, may God grant you dignity.

They [global arrogance] will not forget so soon. They work day and night, they insinuate their lackeys and want to come and take revenge for the past and secure their interests for the future.

It is a must for the world Muslims to recognize that a unity is needed and that fact should not be delayed for even a moment. First of all it should be realized that we need to maintain some kind of unity, be sincere with each other, tell each other the truth, our words should reflect our hearts, we should comprehend various issues with all our existence, put hand in hand, the small for its own little part, the big for its own large part. If the world of Islam maintains its unity of expression and confronts world arrogance, then not only will world arrogance be unable to take revenge for the past, but it will meet the same fate in the future as it did in the past. [Audience chants in Arabic "O Muslims of the world, unite, unite"]

May God grant you success. This is my last warning. In the Iranian system, the United States was slapped by all and by three different groups.

First by the ulema. It [the United States] realized that it was the ulema, it was the mosques and our ulema that mattered, from our late honorable leader to our present leader and to all those who work in various organs, those who were martyred and those who have survived. That is the first section. They [global arrogance] will endeavor to take away the clergy from you through accusations, insults, and uttering words to divide you from the clergy and the clergy from you. That is one point. [One person shouts "O combatant clergy, we will support you," then all participants chant the same]

The second section of our forces were from universities, where yesterday I watched a speech by the late imam which was being broadcast by the television, most probably all of you also listen [to those speeches]. You saw what kind of instructions he graciously gave. They [global arrogance] will try to separate masses of people from each other, workers and so one. We should safeguard the unity of expression, alongside each other, heart by heart, so that the enemy does not dare imagine penetrating or bringing any kind of harm to us. The enemy should bury that wish [to harm us] to the grave with itself.

In conclusion I thank all dear guests who took part in the Friday prayers today, in particular the dear guest of the Islamic country of Iran, the esteemed president of Algeria, and we welcome his arrival. [passage omitted]

President Discusses Talks With Algeria's Bendjedid

LD1412182190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani concerning his 13 and 14 December discussions with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in Tehran; place and date of speech not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We did not have much time for discussions, as Mr. Chadli Bendjedid wishes to visit a number of countries during his tour and there was not enough time for all of the issues which concern both of us. We held discussions for four to five hours yesterday evening, last night, and today. Our discussions were mainly concentrated on the Persian Gulf crisis and the new developments which have been created as the result of the occupation of Kuwait and the presence of the alien forces in the region, and ways of solving them. Very well, Mr. Bendjedid had paid a visit to Baghdad and had seen one side of the case quite well and that created a new possibility for our assessments to gain an additional dimension toward reality.

On issues of bilateral concern, we discussed our relations and the expansion of cooperation. The talks were unfinished and it was decided that they be completed in another visit which is going to take place.

Some very useful information was provided by Bendjedid about Algeria's new move toward democracy and further participation of the Algerian people in decision-making. In my opinion those explanations are very hopeful and will have a serious effect on the Arab Maghreb region, and even on the eastern part of the Arab world and on all of Africa.

We held some discussions on Palestinian issues and we assessed the current conditions and dangers which are threatening Palestinians and what we can do about them.

In all, it was a positive visit. Of course, our concern about the Persian Gulf crisis still remains. We do not see a bright point which provides hope, and that requires further efforts in order to break the deadlock which has been created. I hope that the tour of the president of Algeria will bring blessings and benefit to the region and its people.

Concludes Talks With Bendjedid

LD1512114190 Algiers APS in English 1009 GMT 15 Dec 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tehran, 15 Dec (APS)—"Whoever incites to war, does not fairly predict its consequences, therefore he will be nothing but a war criminal," stated President Chadli at his departure from Tehran on Friday afternoon. "I believe, added he, that no country either it belongs or not to this region, takes any advantage if a war happens to be unleashed, because there will be a catastrophe both in that region and elsewhere.

The head of state also stated, whoever will take the initiative to launch a war, will be responsible both before history and humanity. "However, noted President Chadli Bendjedid, there is still room for dialogue one should not despair, and thanks to the good will and sincerity of humans, we ought to hope to involve all parties for a peaceful settlement so as to ward off a colossal catastrophe for the region and humanity as a whole."

While drawing conclusions from his successive visits to Amman and Baghdad, the head of state noted that he preferred to contact directly the concerned parties though the situation is attentively followed up in the Maghreb. The only objective being that we do want to know their points of view.

"I do believe, added the president, that there is a shared will of all leaders I met to settle problems of this region by peaceful means.

No country likes the escalation of the crisis nor wants to resort to force and violence. However, it seems difficult to set up a final conclusion for there are still unexploited opportunities. In this regard, I am thinking about a meeting that could reconciliate some parties. Thus, I hope that points of view will be convergent for a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

While regretting that President Chadli's visit is short, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his turn thinks that he had enough time to tackle all important issues of common interest. As for the Gulf crisis, the Iranian president noted that the problem may be settled after the talks President Chadli held in Amman and Baghdad. Tackling bilateral relations, it had been agreed, recalled President Rafsanjani, upon another visit to reinforce them for the two countries's interest.

The Iranian head of state eventually stated that he kept abreast of democratic process in Algeria, where people are the main contributor. He hoped that President Chadli's efforts would a successful [as received] for safeguarding stability of the peoples in the Gulf.

Algerian Foreign Minister Promotes Arab Dialogue

LD1512115190 Algiers APS in English 1019 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, 15 Dec (APS)—The Algerian foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali underlined that the tour of President Chadli Bendjedid occurs at a time where patience, wisdom and the experience of men are put to a test and that such circumstances are endangering peace in the region. In a declaration to the national press, which coincided with the departure of the Algerian head of state from Baghdad toward, Tehran, [as received] Sid Ahmed Ghazali indicated that the political leadership in

Algeria has been examining the different assets of the crisis right from the beginning.

The foreign minister added that this visit comes within the frame of a cleansing of the relations among the Arab leaders in the interest of the Muslim Arab nation as well as to find an issue to the deadlock in which this part of the world is hindered, as well as to relaunch the Arab common efforts which seems to be absent.

Furthermore, ghozali noted that "the boosting of Arab and Islamic initiative, dialogue and comprehension between Arab leaders will certainly ward off any foreign interference in our problems. Such an interference, he added, frequently neglects interests of concerned parties, which will lead to the division of ranks, confrontation and persistance of tension.

Facing this situation, President Chadli insisted on paying this visit that we hope would be fruitful, particularly through the meetings we had with our brothers in Jordan and Iraq. They allowed us to exchange points of view and deep analyses concerning the situation as well as all problems of the Middle East including the Gulf crisis and Palestinian cause added ghozali.

The foreign minister, stressed on the existence of the different points of views relative to the necessity to avoid a destructive war in a sensitive region. [sentence as received]

In the same context, ghozali underlined the necessity to grant the Palestinian people their rights to self-determination in accordance to the international legality. Furthermore the stress was also put on the reconciliation among the Islamic and Arab capitals aimed at promoting the dialogue which is the only factor for a solution to everybody.

Velayati Visit to Moscow 'Postponed'

LD1512112690 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Visit to Moscow of Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati which was to take place Saturday morning, has been postponed and is to take place in a later date.

According to the Foreign Ministry "the visit has been postponed till another date upon mutual agreement."

Meanwhile, Velayati is to travel to Sweden next Monday at the invitation of his Swedish counterpart Sten Andersson on a two-day official visit at the head of a delegation, the ministry announced.

IRNA Reports Postponement

LD1612210590 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 16 IRNA—A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday that the scheduled visit to Moscow of Iran's Foreign Minster 'Ali Akbar Velayati had been postponed due to the intense volume of political activities in Moscow and the technical problems in regulating the programs for the visit.

Velayati was scheduled to visit Moscow Saturday at the invitation of his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze, but it was cancelled due to some reasons including a possible change in the program for his meeting with the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Speaking at a press conference, the spokesman said the visit will be carried out as soon as the two countries agreed on its date.

On Tehran-Moscow ties, he said the Soviet officials have close contacts with Iranian counterparts. He also termed the level of actual contacts and talks as very good.

He also said the future visit to Moscow of Velayati will be very useful for both sides.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli 'Crimes'

LD1712113690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement condemened the recent crimes perpetrated by the Zionist regime in occupied Palestine. The ministry declared its total support for the Muslim Palestinian nation and their just struggle until the liberation of that Islamic land and the establishment of an independent Palestinian government over its entire territory.

According to the statement, the new wave of bestial crimes and the recent suppressive actions of the occupying Jerusalem regime in occupied Palestine specifically in the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip has hitherto led to the martyrdom and injury of a large number of defenseless and innocent residents of occupied Palestine, and the arrest and capture of hundreds of Palestinian men, women, youth, and children in the holy land of Palestine. This places the sacred uprising and revolution of Palestine in sensitive and destiny-making conditions. These conditions summon the entire Muslim and the freedom-seeking individuals of the world as well as all Islamic countries to render their total and comprehensive support to the struggle of the Muslim and oppressed Palestinian nation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns the bestial actions of the occupying Jerusalem regime specially that regime's recent expulsion and eviction of Palestinians from their natural and ancestral land. It declares its total support for the Muslim and oppressed Palestinian nation and their just struggles toward the liberation of the Islamic land of Palestine specifically the honorable Jerusalem and the establishment of an independent Palestinian government over its entire territory.

Presence of NATO Forces in Gulf Deplored

LD1712114590 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—A Persian daily said Monday [17 December] that the Persian Gulf and Islamic lands are witnessing the largest military expedition ever of enemies of Islam since the crusade.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial added that the scope of the expedition is unprecedented even in comparison with those of the two world wars.

The daily refuted the world-devourers' justification that the military buildup is to encounter Baghdad aggression and added that since they are well aware of the Iraqi military capabilities, there is no need for such an expedition to smash the Iraqi war machine.

Evidences indicate that the main problem of the world devourers is to justify military presence of NATO forces at the heartland of Muslims and in the oil-rich Middle East and also to contain the Islamic revolution, it said.

Lashing out at the corrupt Arab royal courts for inflicting the heaviest blow on the world of Islam and Muslims, the editorial said that their role has changed the regional situation to the detriment of Muslim nations and to the interest of oppressive powers.

It further deplored the idea that the world of Islam must cover the expenses of the treacherous operations of the NATO forces against interests of Muslims. It is a great shame for Muslim nations that their two holiest places, the al-Aqsa Mosque and Ka'bah, are under the boots of enemies of Islam and that so far no measures have been taken to encounter it.

The editorial hailed the launching of the 10-day Victory-1 maneuvers in the Persian Gulf Sunday by the Iranian naval forces and said that Muslims are duty-bound to enhance their military capabilities and combat power to encounter any unpredictable incident which would threaten their independence and territorial integrity.

Tehran on Velayati Meeting With Omani Sultan

NC1712072190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] In continuation of his visit to the Persian Gulf countries, Mr. Velayati, our foreign minister, met Qabus, the sultan of Oman, last night in Oman and conveyed a message from our president to him. In this meeting, the Persian Gulf crisis was discussed by the two sides.

While stressing the role of Oman in achieving an amicable solution to the Persian Gulf crisis during this meeting, our foreign minister expressed the hope that these efforts will be able to avert the danger of a war in the region.

Khamene'i Favors Joint Military Command

LD1512140490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, arrived this morning in Bandar 'Abbas and, visiting the headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran's First Naval Fleet, commissioned the reconstructed Sabalan destroyer and joined it to the naval fleet of the Islamic Iran.

Official welcoming ceremonies were held for the arrival of his eminence the leader in Bandar 'Abbas, and the high-ranking commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps and officials of the Hormozgan Province welcomed the arrival of the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

Before the honorable leader of the revolution commissioned the reconstructed Sabalan destroyer, the head of the factories of the First Naval Fleet submitted a report to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i on the dimensions of damages caused to that destroyer, which was attacked by the American aggressive forces in an unjust clash on 29 Esfand 1367 [20 March 1988].

The commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces also visited the interior parts of the Sabalan destroyer, and was informed about the process of its reconstruction. He then congratulated the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy for its huge success.

The same report indicates that a number of the commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy took part in a joint meeting in which the honorable leader was present, and elaborated on the six-phase joint air-naval and ground maneuvers entitled Victory-1, which have been staged in an area of 30,000 square miles in the Persian Gulf waters, and also submitted a report on the role of the forces under their command.

Also on the bases of the same report, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces participated in the morning ceremonies at the Islamic Republic of Iran's First Naval Fleet headquarters, and inspected the forces present in the field, paying respect to the lofty rank of the navy martyrs.

Rear Admiral Shamkhani, the Navy commander, made some brief remarks, referring to the importance of the Victory-1 maneuvers under the current sensitive conditions in the region, and announced the readiness of the Navy to confront any surprise situation in the Persian Gulf region.

Then His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, addressing the forces stationed in the field, stressed the particular significance of the Navy for Islamic Republic of Iran's system, and the necessity of increasing those forces' capabilities and qualities.

Referring to threats which have always existed against the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces graciously said: Vigilance, preparedness, and undermining threats are the necessary qualities of a Muslim. The military and geographic situation of the region dictates that our military forces should, as much as possible, increase the volume and the quality of their naval capabilities, and that is a duty.

The leader of the Islamic revolution termed the belief, steadfastness, and firm determination of the strugglers of Islam as decisive, and added: We have expanded territorial waters, and that requires different duties for the Army and the Guards. The situation of the country, and our Islamic system, require that we possess the highest quality of resources and capabilities—and that significant point can be realized through the two organs of the Army and the Guards.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i placed emphasis on the need to maintain the existence of the Islamic Republic of Iran's navy along the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp's Navy, and added: Those two forces should fight in the same trench, be complementary to each other, and alongside each other. I praise both forces for their self-sacrifice and their massive endeavours, and as a principle I expect them to perform their duties at sea.

The commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, referring to the presence of the armed-to-the-teeth enemies of Islam in the region, pointed out the impossibility of any incompatibility between our forces, and graciously said: in order that the forces of the Navy and the Guards' Navy perform their own particular duties, I am determined to bring them under a joint command. Each of those forces possess particular resources, and are duty bound to make the most use of those resources. The Army and the Guards should perform the Victory-1 maneuvers with the highest ability and coordination in order to increase their capabilities. I expect those maneuvers also to be a good exercise for cooperation, coordination, and sincerity toward fellow trenchmen.

At the end of his remarks, the leader of the Islamic revolution praised and thanked the personnel of the factories of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, who through their round-the-clock endeavors managed to reconstruct the Sabalan destroyer.

On the bases of the same report, a number of the model personnel of the Navy and its factories, who played an outstanding role in the reconstruction of the Sabalan destroyer, received prizes from the honorable leader.

At the end of the ceremonies, the units stationed in the field belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran's First Naval Fleet marched passed the holy Koran and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

The same report points out that General Zahir-Nezhad; the head of military advisors Dr. Firuzabadi; the head of general command headquarters Engineer Torkan; Minister of Defense and Support of the Armed Forces *Mohsen Reza'i, General Shahbazi, commander of the* Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; the head of the joint forces of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' chief of staff; the commanders of the three forces of the Army and the Guards; the head of general command headquarter's politicoideological office; the head of general command headquarter's counterintelligence office; and the representative of the vali-ye faqih in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps were also present.

It is worth mentioning that the honorable leader of the Islamic Revolution returned to Tehran after the ceremonies.

*RESALAT 24 Oct Majles Session Report

91AS0134A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Oct 90 pp 5, 12

[Text] Legal and Majles Division—The Majles met yesterday morning in public session chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent reports that the Majles began its deliberations after talks by the deputies from Alshotor, Tehran, and Sari.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers and the measures enacted by the Majles.

Masha'allah Heydari, Alshotor Deputy: The Quality of Distribution of the Nation's Budget Still Hasn't Found the Proper Process, Therefore There Are Various Factors and Levers at Work in Its Distribution

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Heydari from the Alshotor electoral district. In his talk, he said: The bloody massacre of Palestinian Muslims at the Dome of the Rock Mosque by the usurping and rampant Zionist regime, the shameless veto of the Security Council resolution by the Great Satan America, and the deathly silence of the international organizations has once again exposed the hands of the lying pretenders to democracy and the defense of human rights, and has proven to the free and noble people of the world that the international associations and organizations such as the Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International are made and created by the bullies of the world to justify further their despicable acts and their inhumane intentions, through the game of the defense of human rights. The surprising thing is that the nations claiming democracy and the Arab reactionary regimes, as before, continue their deathly silence, but they must realize that the foundations of oppression and force are so weak that sooner or later those oppressed people are going to burn down their house of cards, and their palaces of oppression and cruelty will crumble. We give the Palestinian nation the good news that the path you have chosen to struggle against occupying and bloody Israel, this manifestation of the unjust imperialists of the world, with inspiration from the Islamic revolution of Iran under the guidance of his holiness the imam (may his grave be sanctified), and

following the leadership of the great one of the revolution, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, since it relies on the weapons of faith and martyrdom, will inevitably take you to victory. We assure you that we will be beside you until dear Jerusalem is liberated and Zionism is wiped off the pages of time.

He warned the Islamic nations and said: It is time you realized this truth, that in this dastardly and bullying world, which accepts none of the principles of logic and humanity other than trickery and force, only the Islamic government of Iran, relying on the exalted principles of Islam, which conforms to the pure essence of human beings, has valued from the beginning and continues to value the pacts, commitments, preservation of human dignity, and internationally recognized criteria. Likewise, in the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, the world's politicians expected that Iran would seek revenge and make political, economic, and military use of this golden opportunity, but they have learned once again that although it has endured great damage and enormous losses from Iraqi aggression, the Iranian nation is absolutely unwilling to make dastardly use of the opportunities that have arisen, and it will not bargain with its Islamic and humane principles in the course of these events. It is Islamic Iran that, despite Kuwait's pandering to Iraq and believing in the principle of nonaggression, decisively condemns both Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the extensive presence of world-devouring America and NATO members in the Persian Gulf. Saudi Arabia's taking refuge with America and NATO to defend against Iraqi aggression is like going from the frying pan into the fire, and driving away corruption with more corruption, and it will have no outcome other than to further humiliate Muslims and further strengthen Israel.

He then discussed the main elements of poverty. He said: The main factors in poverty, backwardness, and imperialism by world-devouring America and the world of imperialism may be summarized as follows:

1. The existence of hand-picked governments without popular support.

2. A one-product economy and the production of a single product in the developed countries.

3. Overpopulation and agricultural production that is not proportionate to it.

4. A shortage of academic and technical knowledge.

To fight against these factors, the speaker proposed: It is therefore necessary that at whatever price, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the standard bearer of independence and freedom in the world's deprived and dominated nations, must concern itself with emerging from one-product economies, population control, making agriculture central, forming research and study institutions, and attracting researchers and scholars.

The Alshotor deputy called upon everyone to come to the Islamic brotherhood under the leadership of the Muslim vice-regent, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. He said: Sometimes our brothers in religion, all of whom are the religious capital of the Islamic revolution, fall short of the main goals of the revolution and their main duties. In their dealings with one another they go beyond the constructive and religiously lawful limits of their duties, so that they cause concern for the Islamic nation, stain the reputations of valuable people who are the wealth of the Islamic revolution, give hope to the sworn enemies of the Islamic government in intensifying their evil plots, and weaken the foundations of the government and its organizations. It is therefore necessary, based on the criteria of Islam and the prophetic guidance of our late imam (may his grave be sanctified) and through full adherence to the vice-regent of the Muslims, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i (may God prolong his life), and by observing the principles and brotherhood of Islam, to turn the enemy to despair as before.

The speaker then discussed the administrative bureaucracy. He said: The effects still have not been uprooted of using influence, paper shuffling, leaving the people with no place to go, bribery, embezzlement, waste, extensive dissipation, and holding extravagant and unproductive meetings of government officials. It is necessary that the respected ministers, the managers, the officials in charge of the offices and their affiliated groups exercise greater administrative and financial supervision and control, and for this purpose they must make use of their experts in administrative and financial affairs for investigation.

The administrative offices usually do not deal with the complaints of the people. It is impossible to see and meet with officials, except in rare cases through heroic measures. Most of the ministries and offices, with the excuse that they are holding meetings, do not even grant appointments.

For example, I waited 10 days for an appointment with the minister of education and training, and when I finally did not succeed, I protested logically (through his office), and the respected minister announced to me through the same office that the only way to meet with him was for me to apologize, otherwise I would never be allowed to meet with him. Yet in the Islamic government these positions are divine trusts and the blood price of martyrs, and refusing to give appointments to the representatives of the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran violates religious and legal criteria. If he does not have have the patience to serve the nation, then they should turn over the trust to someone who is capable. I thank the minister of roads and transportation, who does not hesitate to give appointments to representatives.

Addressing the government, Mr. Heyadari discussed budget expenditures and carrying out development projects. He said: The government does not exercise effective control and supervision over budget expenditures, carrying out development projects, and fixed

investments. The high ministers and executive officials are involved only during study of the budget bill, but afterwards, plans and projects are on their own, with the result of embezzling the budget to the detriment of the government in the name of adjustments, with the pretexts of lack of materials and contract rate increases.

Concerning deprivation and its elimination, the speaker said: Through the grace of the respected president of the republic, the deprived area's office has been opened under the presidency, but it is not adequate in practice to deal with the problems in the deprived areas in a real and fundamental way, because first of all the share of the national budget in rials for the deprived areas is quite small, and secondly it is not productive to have a share in rials without a share in the foreign exchange.

Third, because of the lack of machinery and construction materials, there is no hope of carrying out any project in the deprived areas.

Fourth, basically, the Plan and Budget Organization and the Plan and Budget Commission are not interested in discussing the deprived areas. One would think that eliminating deprivation was not one of the main principles of the Islamic revolution.

He added: One of the problems is the failure to make timely allocations and deliver credit to the projects during the work season, and for this reason the credits promised to the projects go back to the treasury.

Addressing the Majles, the speaker said: The respected Majles must try to pass basic laws to alleviate the problems of the people, think of ways to remove obstacles to improving the economy, rebuild the country and start up industries and factories to preserve the nation's independence, and help the government. At the same time, it must activate an accounting court to audit the executive organizations to assure timely and appropriate budget expenditures.

The speaker then discussed the unjust distribution of the budget and the development projects, especially in Lorestan Province. He said: After 12 years of the Islamic revolution, the quality of distribution of the nation's budget still hasn't found the proper process, and there are various factors and levers at work in its distribution, so that ultimately the nation's budget is losing its equilibrium through the effects of these factors. As it appears, we have no intention of establishing just regulations for distributing the nation's budget.

The result of such distribution is that despite its size of 30,000 square kilometers, a population of 1.5 million, 776,000 hectares of rich arable land, 2.1 million hectares of pasture, 750,000 hectares of forest, 6.5 million head of livestock, 4.5 billion cubic meters of potential surface water, 1.5 billion cubic meters of underground water, significant mines and various tourist attractions, Lorestan Province bears the past's costly burden of deprivation and indifference. For example, based on indicators set for health care and treatment among the nation's 20 provinces, this province is in last place, and based on studies of the nation's deprived areas by the Plan and Budget Organization, 16 of the nation's 20 provinces have been declared to be deprived. The development budget for Lorestan Province has dropped from 900 million tomans per year to 350 million tomans. This in itself is one of the main reasons for the decline in per capita income for a Lorestani individual.

Currently, a Lorestani's annual income is less than the annual income in the other provinces. It is very much behind the other provinces in other areas such as education and training, culture and art, urban development, roads and transportation, water and electricity, and urban roads.

With great surprise, however, it was neither declared to be a deprived province nor did it receive its just share of resources, development and national projects and factories, and major and minor industries. For this reason poverty and deprivation have spread in Lorestan Province.

Morteza Alviri, Tehran Deputy: Without a Doubt, the Results of the Elections for the Assembly of Experts Are Seen as a Defeat for the Officials

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Morteza Alviri, Tehran deputy. He began his talk by discussing economic issues. He said:

In the year 2030, 40 years from now when the world's oil will be gone, it is estimated that the world's population will be 10 billion, and Iran's population will be 200 million. Of the 10 billion people in the world, 8 billion, or four out every five people, will be living in the Third World. The small populations and the current technological potential of the industrial nations will bring them to a mega-civilization, meaning the information age, because they invest their surplus resources in greater technological growth. On the other hand, the Third World nations, who have raw materials and simple manpower, due to the fact that advanced technology minimizes the role of raw materials and manpower below that of production, and therefore four-fifths of the population of the world will have to live on a minimum income. As a Third World country that advocates saving mankind from injustice and poverty, it is our duty and we ask God, until Mehdi's revolution (may God hasten his joyful advent) to protect this uprising through his grace. Have we thought about making up for what has happened and achieving lasting expansion? Have we thought about what changes should be made in the country to protect the values of the revolution and so we will be able to guard the aspirations of the martyrs in the face of a united Europe, a Greater Germany, and America's military presence in the area?

He added: By controlling books, tapes, and videos, we think we have blocked the spread of Western culture, but have we prepared ourselves for tomorrow, when even in our own homes our children are exposed to the worst ethical scenarios via the television set? Indeed, what are we going to do in this world full of collisions and rapid

change, and what will we become? Will the values of the revolution gradually fade and will we also have to follow the changes in the world as a backward Third World country? Wasn't this revolution achieved after 1400 years of struggle, wandering, torture, and imprisonment? Isn't this revolution the fruit of the blood of the martyrs of 5 June and 8 September? Didn't tens of thousands of martyrs and hundreds of thousands of fighters for the revolution soak themselves in their own blood and sacrifice their well-being to protect this revolution? God forbid that because of our inadequacy, our perverted thinking and our incompetence, the exalted values of the revolution should be lost. Indeed, how is one to protect the Islamic revolution in the face of the world's infidelity and polytheism?

Mr. Alviri then declared his anxiety over the results of the elections for the Assembly of Experts. He said:

Events have occurred in the country in recent days over which I deem it necessary to express my concern. Without a doubt, the results of the elections for the Assembly of Experts are seen as a defeat for the officials, because for the first time, and God willing for the last time, most of the qualified voters did not go to the polls. Since this bitter defeat has to do with the fate of the Islamic Republic, as representatives of the people, we cannot sit idly by. Finding the reasons for the poor public participation will certainly help us solve the problem. Did participation drop because the elections for the Assembly of Experts are not directly related to the problems of the people? Was this caused by the economic problems besetting the people? Was the main reason for the low participation the absence of figures on the list of candidates of interest to the public, the limited number of candidates, and lack of elective power for the voters? Let us assess dispassionately the above questions.

1. The lack of direct public connection to the Assembly of Experts is no reason for the reduced number of votes, because in the 10 year history of the revolution the people have understood well the importance of the leadership and the role of the supreme jurisconsult. Proof of this is the active participation of the people in the first round of elections for the Assembly of Experts, in which of 22.3 million qualified voters 18.1 million participated, or 81.4 percent.

2. Economic problems cannot be the main reason for the low voter participation, although their effects cannot be ignored. The people know well that the unhealthy one-product economy left over from the oppressive monarchy, which was immediately beset with the 10-year imposed war, cannot be set right in a short time. The people dealt with the extremely difficult economic conditions of the years 1365-1367 [21 March 1986-20 March 1989] and put them behind. Domestic production was at a minimum, and many of the needs of the people were met with difficulty. Likewise, the rockets and bombs of Saddam's regime were falling on their heads. We must remember the conditions under which the elections for the Third Majles were held in Tehran and the other municipalities.

The only reason that remains is the limited number of candidates from which the people had to choose. The lack of a sufficient number of names on the ballot of interest to the people could be due to the fact that they themselves did not become candidates, and this is something that can be considered. In other words, why didn't they become candidates? Or it may be because their competence was not confirmed. For example, in Tehran Province, where there was no competition of any kind and the number of candidates was about equal to the number of candidates needed, only 30 percent of the qualified voters participated in the elections, while in Mazandaran Province, where there was a full contest, more than 80 percent of the qualified voters went to the polls. The same comparison can be made in East Azarbaijan and West Azarbaijan.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker discussed his concern about the elections for the Fourth Majles. He said:

A great concern that exists is the Majles elections. Many people are asking, will what was done for the elections for the Assembly of Experts be repeated for the Majles elections? Won't many of the candidates be eliminated, and if this happens, won't the participation rate, which is an indicator of public approval for the government, be hurt? In an interview with a newspaper, a dear brother said: The faction that now has the majority in the Majles was trying to expand its domination to the Assembly of Experts. Dear brother, it is the true nature of every human being to try to make efforts for his ideas. For example, he will try to divert votes to himself, his party, and his faction by clarifying for the people and holding interviews, round tables, and the like. Naturally, the people will vote based on the records of individuals and factions and the solutions these individuals and factions offer to solve public problems, but where in the world and with what logic is it appropriate to eliminate opposition and competition by removing the possibility for people to express their opinions, instead of relying on the public vote?

In conclusion, the Tehran deputy noted:

In any case, the elections for the Assembly of Experts are over and the aggregate of conditions and factors has produced these results and produced indignation and resentment. In the interest of the revolution, the blood of the martyrs, and the great soul of the imam (may God have mercy upon him), let us wash away the indignation and resentment and put our faith in the necessity for public participation. Let us make that a necessary condition for protecting and maintaining the revolution, and let us put the interests of the revolution and Islam ahead of factional and ideological interests.

'Ezzatollah Damadi, Sari Deputy: Dissent and Criticism Must Not Take on Personal Dimensions, They Must Be Used to Improve Society

The third and final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. 'Ezzatollah Damadi from the Sari electoral district. He began his talk by offering condolences on the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Mostafa Khomeyni. He said: The people are crying out with problems, and the Majles Plan and Budget Commission is still producing statistics and figures. I don't know who these figures and statistics are for. If they are for the people, they know, and if they are for us, I must say that guidance on the budget comes from you, but where does the follow-through come from?

He added: The problem of the oppressed and defenseless people of Palestine will not be solved with sympathy and condolences. You see how the crudeness, crimes, and killings are increasing every day. Isn't it possible to use the same international leverage that is being used against Iraq to save the tormented people of Palestine? It is most surprising that the United Nations Security Council believes that to defend human rights, after a resolution condemning Israel was vetoed by America, it will relieve its conscience by supervising these merciless Zionist killings.

Continuing, he condemned the savage slaughter of the people of Palestine and he called upon Muslims throughout the world to get evil usurper Israel off the backs of the defenseless people by reacting strongly.

Elsewhere in his talk, the Sari deputy thanked the martyr-nurturing people of Mazandaran for their extensive participation in the elections for the Assembly of Experts. He said: Concerning the pre-agenda speech of one deputy, due to the confusion that was created, I consider it necessary to make the following points:

Statistics show that 31 million people voted, while in the official census for 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] we had a total of 29 million people over age 11, and in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] these people are 15 and older. Those who were younger than 11 or were born in the last four years are not eligible to vote, and there were about three million deaths in the past five years. Therefore the total number of eligible voters is 26 million, and in view of the 11.5 million votes cast and the fact that there were no votes in three provinces, this figure comes to 13.5 million, and shows that about 53 percent of the eligible voters voted. What country in the world do you know about where more than 40 percent of the eligible voters voted?

In the same regard, he added: The statistics presented by this deputy are not just. The total number of votes cast in the Tehran mid-term elections last year (despite full participation by all the factions and groups) was more than 700,000, while in the elections for the Assembly of Experts in Tehran Province at best there were 1.5 million voters, and in Tehran alone there were more than one million votes cast.

Mr. Damadi continued: Today, as the period of national reconstruction has begun, the only way to achieve the goals of the revolution, to strengthen the government, to preserve values and help the deprived people is through brotherly unity and friendship and listening in solidarity to the commands of the exalted leader. One must assiduously avoid disputes, clashes, and factionalism, to keep society free of division. Dissent and criticism must not take on personal dimensions, they must be used to improve society. It is under these conditions that criticism is constructive.

Continuing, he added: Our values will be preserved when the Islamic Republic takes its place in the world as a major locus of power. Our values will be preserved when there is not a single unemployed, homeless, poor, or needy person in the country. Our values will be preserved when domestic production reaches the level of self-sufficiency and the nation's industry and technology become advanced.

He added: To build the country, let us build a perfect model for the Islamic nations with as much unity as possible, so that they can learn from us. Today, discord and division, factionalism, selfishness, and indifference to the people are an unforgivable sin and a national crime.

Elsewhere in his talk, he emphasized: Since the beginning of the revolution, the executive officials and the Majles deputies have always promoted agricultural self-sufficiency, but in practice we have not achieved this goal. Indeed, imports have increased every day. Dependence in agricultural affairs is the worst kind of dependence. If basic changes are not made in this sector, in view of the rate of population growth, unbridled emigration, and the urban population, the level of food imports has increased and it threatens the nation's political independence. Proper policy in agriculture and the procurement of food is the only way out of dependence. Real and basic investments must be made for the country's 51 million hectares of arable land. Most of the basic and real investments in this sector must be for the procurement of water, manpower, and technical knowledge.

He added: In view of the unbridled growth in population, which will be 100 million by 1390 [21 March 2011-20 March 2012], the government's efforts to reclaim irrigated agricultural lands must increase from 10 million hectares to 25 million hectares, and to reach these goals by the end of the second plan will require a comprehensive general mobilization, national unity, and a sense of common empathy.

In conclusion, Mr. Damadi said: In every government, the effort is to eliminate the economic problems of the people. In the government of the Islamic Republic, where the people have a basic role and a special place, the most difficult and complex problems of the people are the economy, inflation, and high prices. There is heavy pressure on most of our people. To strengthen the revolution and preserve it, our people have been unsparing of their lives and property, and they expect

those who are insiders in public affairs to do some basic thinking for these toiling people, especially the workers and government employees.

Measure Taken

The report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent on yesterday's public Majles session states: The first item on the agenda was continued consideration of the National Iranian Library's charter, and after discussion the remainder of its articles were approved as follows:

Article Four: The main elements of the National Iranian Library are:

1. the Board of Trustees

2. the chief of the library

Article Five: The Board of Trustees of the National Iranian Library will consist of the following persons:

1. the president of the Islamic Republic (the supreme chief of the National Iranian Library)

2. the minister of culture and higher education

3. the minister of education and training

4. the minister of culture and Islamic guidance

5. two experts on books and librarianship

5. [number as published] one person proposed by the minister of culture and higher education and confirmed by the head of the Board of Trustees

6. the head of the National Iranian Library

Note One: The head of the Board of Trustees will be the president of the republic.

Note Two: The head of the library will be recommended by the president and approved by the Board of Trustees for a four-year term, and may be reappointed.

Note Three: The head of the National Iranian Library will serve as secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Article Six: Decisions made by the Board of Trustees will be finalized by a decisive majority vote of those present.

Article Seven: Duties of the Board of Trustees:

A. Enact the organization and administrative structures of the National Iranian Library.

B. Prepare and approve financial, administrative, employment, and organizational guidelines for the Library as proposed by the head of the library.

C. Approve the library budget and propose it to the appropriate authorities.

D. Approve measures on how to acquire funds, guidance, and financial assistance from real and legal persons.

D. [as published] Approve the participation of library representatives at international, inter-government, or regional meetings, conferences, congresses, exhibitions, and collaborations pertaining to books and libraries.

E. Listen to the library head's annual report, make decisions concerning it, and designate the library's general policy.

F. Approve internal guidelines needed by the library.

G. Propose any kind of changes or amendments to the charter to the appropriate authorities.

H. Plan to procure two copies of all written or non-written works, including books, administrative publications, pamphlets, brochures, academic and research reports, stamps, and the like as needed and used by the National Iranian Library.

I. Take the measures necessary to make up budget shortfalls for the National Iranian Library through all the nation's public and private libraries through purchases, gifts, exchanging extra copies or photocopies, microfilms, or micro fiches of them.

J. Approve the appointment and dismissal of the head of the National Iranian Library.

K. Submit projects to mobilize resources to prepare statistics, preserve books, manuscripts, and historical documents for all libraries (government and non-government) using advanced academic values in all the nation's libraries and knowledge centers, and preventing them from being wasted or plundered.

Article Eight: The duties and prerogatives of the head of the library consist of:

A. Manage the library's affairs in view of the measures enacted by the Board of Trustees.

B. Supervise the proper implementation of the Charter, the guidelines, and the measures enacted by the Board of Trustees.

C. Propose financial, exchange, administrative, employment, and organizational guidelines for libraries to the Board of Trustees.

D. Present an annual library report and also report on the extent of work progress to the Board of Trustees.

E. Invite members of the Board of Trustees to take part in the meetings mentioned in Article Five of the charter.

F. Propose extra meetings to the Board of Trustees as required.

G. Sign all contracts and financial documents, open bank accounts, introduce authorized signers, and authorize payments within the limits of the appropriate regulations and the approved budget.

H. Propose the annual library budget to the Board of Trustees.

I. Represent the library to all administrative and judicial authorities with the right to select a lawyer to secure the library's rights.

J. Propose library internal guidelines to the Board of Trustees to make decisions.

K. Appoint and dismiss all library employees based on the approved organizations.

L. Perform all other duties assigned by the Board of Trustees.

According to this report, at this session the report from the Legal and Judicial Affairs Commission concerning the proposed Economic Saboteurs Penalties Law enacted 17 June 1990 by the Majles, which was returned by the Council of Guardians, was discussed and studied, and one of its articles was amended.

Based on Article One of this proposal, the commission of any one of the acts mentioned in the subsequent paragraphs would be considered a crime and the perpetrator would be sentenced to the penalties set in this law.

A. Violations in the nation's monetary or foreign exchange system through the wholesale smuggling of foreign exchange, counterfeiting coins or notes, or their wholesale import and distribution, whether domestically or abroad, and the like.

B. Violations in the distribution of items needed by the public through gross overpricing of food or other public needs, hoarding food or the aforementioned needs, and mass advance purchases of agricultural products and other products needed by the public and the like for the purpose of creating a monopoly or a market shortage of those goods.

C. Violations in the nation's production system through major abuses of unauthorized sales of technical equipment and raw materials on the free market, violations of the relevant commitments, bribery and bribe-taking in production, or obtaining production authorizations in cases that cause violations in the nation's production policies, or similar things.

D. Any kind of measure intended to export cultural heirlooms or national wealth, even if not carried out, will be seen as smuggling and all assets intended for export will be treated as the property of the smuggler and confiscated for the government.

E. Receiving of large amounts of funds as deposits by real and legal persons in the name of a limited partnership and similar entities which leads to embezzlement of the assets of the people or violations in the economic system.

F. Measures by a group or an organization to commit a violation in the nation's export system in any form, such as fraud in submitting or paying a foreign exchange contract, fraud in pricing export goods, or other things.

Note: The judge who determines if the instances of the violations mentioned in each of the above paragraphs occur in wholesale, large amounts, or many times, in addition to giving his views on the extent of loss caused, the extent of the abuse, and the extent of the corruption as required, will also seek the views of the appropriate authority.

Continued consideration of the amendments to the Economic Saboteurs Penalties Law was postponed to the next public session.

The Majles will meet in public session next Sunday morning.

Explanation and Correction

In reporting on the pre-agenda speeches at the public Majles session for Sunday 21 October 1990, a printing error was made on a sentence from Tehran deputy Najafqoli Habibi's talk, which should read, "Do not allow the revolution to fall into the hands of outsiders and those who are not ritually clean."

Education and Training Minister Discusses Qeydar Deputy's Memo

Legal and Majles Division:

Following the memo from the Qeydar deputy to the minister of education and training concerning the replacement of the head of the Qeydar Office of Education and Training, we have received an explanation from that ministry's public relations office, in which it says:

According to a report from the Zanjan Office of Education and Training, the head of the Qeydar Office of Education and Training is an active, compassionate official with a good record in the areas he has served, and there has as yet been no documented report on his failure to take an Islamic approach, on his acting naively or weakly, or concerning incompetence on his part.

Pakistan

Sharif Requests No Comments on U.S. Relations

BK1312141290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 12—Prime Minister Main Nawaz Sharif has issued instructions to all the Federal Ministers to refrain from commenting on any aspect of Pakistan-US relations, nuclear programme of the country and suspension of American aid to Pakistan.

The instructions to this effect have formally been conveyed to all the members of the Federal Cabinet through a directive of the Cabinet Division.

The directive says that the ministers having no connection with Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme and suspension of aid to Pakistan should not express their opinion through Press as it creates confusion. Such statements, it says, may prove pernicious for the efforts being made to resolve the issue at the highest level.

Yaqub Khan, U.S. Envoy View Nuclear Issue

BK1312153690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Oakley held a discussion on the nuclear issue in Islamabad today. The foreign minister clarified Pakistan's stand on the issue. The U.S. ambassador offered his comments and said that he would apprise Washington of the Pakistan Government's stand on the issue. The talks were held in the scene of the overall relationship between the two countries, and both sides reiterated their determination to maintain the traditional and mutually beneficial relationship between them. It is expected that the process of discussions would continue after the United States expresses its views on Pakistan's position.

IAEA Official Lauds Nuclear Use Performance

BK1312163490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Deputy Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Professor (Normalee Bin Muslim) has lauded Pakistan's performance on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Speaking to newsmen after his visit to Pakistan he said when compared to several developing countries, Pakistan has made better use of nuclear expertise. The IAEA official said he does not think that Pakistan has training facilities for nuclear reprocessing.

Editorial Reviews Nuclear Policy Options

BK1312141890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Defence Options"]

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has, apparently, felt constrained to come upfront on the issue of Pakistan's nuclear programme after being charged by some media commentators of maintaining an ambivalent posture on the question. That is quite apart from what the Prime Minister has referred to in his address at the Karachi public meeting on Tuesday, as the propaganda being carried out by certain "defeated elements" that his government had agreed to open the Kahuta nuclear facilities for international inspection. Main Nawaz Sharif has, of course, denied that Pakistan had shown any willingness to allow inspection of the Kahuta plant. Important as such a rebuttal remains, the "defeated elements" Main Nawaz Sharif has alluded to were bound to agitate the question of international inspection of our nuclear facilities at this stage in view of the confusing and ill-timed announcement of the Federal Cabinet's decision to allow international inspection of a rather obscure Chinese faciflity provided to Pakistan. On the other hand, while Main Nawaz Sharif's categorical renunciation of Pakistan's unilaterally signing the NPT [Non-Proliferation Treaty] should go some way in countering the charge that his government had buckled under foreign pressure on this score, it still remains far from certain as to what extent the continued adherence to a South Asia non proliferation arrangement can cater to this country's compelling security challenges.

Even as there is nothing to suggest that India is or would be willing to enter into a regional discipline to banish the bomb from South Asia, it is about time Pakistan started viewing the nuclear question in terms exclusively of its own security imperatives. Now that the United States has left no scope for ambiguity regarding its preferred scheme of things by declaring its intent to destroy Iraq's military power, the rationale for Washington's favoured treatment of both Israel and India should also become clear beyond doubt. Even if the United States is to withdraw from the Gulf without achieving its declared objective of demolishing Iraq militarily, Washington would continue to bank on both Tel Aviv and New Delhi as the local demolition squad vis-a-vis Muslim powers in the extended region. And it is no coincidence that the nuclear potential of both is being winked at by the United States. In this scenario, it is only wishful to expect that a denuclearised India would suit American interests. Quite apart from that, however, it has become pertinent for Pakistan to re-evaluate the feasibility, practicability as also the economy of sustaining the national defence effort in terms purely of the conventional means. The raw deal being given by the United States to Pakistan at a time of acute financial problems and precarious security environment along the eastern flank of this country, provides the necessary setting for Islamabad to take an independent decision in this regard. Such a course of action has also been facilitated by the uncompromising prosition taken by all segments of Pakistan's establishment not to sacrifice national interests and priorities at the altar of external largesse.

Sharif Comments on Stranded Citizens in Gulf

BK1312162890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has directed the foreign office to take appropriate measures for repatriation of Pakistanis stranded at (Lahu) on the Iraqi-Turkish border. A foreign office spokesman said in Islamabad today, only 330 Pakistanis with 130 cars were presently stranded on the Iraqi side of the border because of refusal by Iraqi authorities to allow foreign nationals to leave along with their cars. Those stranded also include nationals from other countries. The spokesman said Iraqi authorities have agreed to review their position and lift the ban on Pakistani nationals, but no decision had been taken so far. The Pakistan Embassy in Baghdad was constantly in touch with the stranded Pakistanis and was providing

foodstuffs to them. It had also persuaded them to send their family members to Pakistan via Amman.

Political Changes in Bangladesh Reviewed

BK1412143790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Commentary by Omar Latif: "Political Changes in Bangladesh"]

[Text] The world is witnessing these days strong winds blowing all over in favor of democracy. Strongly saddled in seats of power, dictators known for years have given way to the emergence of multiparty political structures. The days of dictatorship are gone and are being replaced by the system of elections. Ballot has overpowered bullets; [words indistinct] sacrifice is the verdict.

The scenario in a country of the subcontinent also bears testimony to the change taking place. A strong man like General Hussain Mohammad Ershad had to bow down before popular demand. He stepped down a few days back and was replaced by Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, a nominee of the political parties opposed to President Ershad. The events taking place in Dhaka have been faster than generally expected. The interim president is assigned the most important job of holding elections with impartiality so that genuine representatives of the people could be elected to rule over the country. This has been a desirably good sign for the success of democracy.

The events now taking place indicate an uncertain direction. It may not be good for the people at large. Normalcy and definite direction for the movement is a must for a successful culmination and in serving the genuine objectives. Being deeply concerned with events in the brotherly country, Bangladesh, the people of Pakistan pray for their good. At this juncture, they wish the people of Bangladesh peace, progress, and prosperity in the environment of a clear sign of democracy. The people of Bangladesh may have felt that they have been in the forefront of the struggle for democracy. It is time to take steps with care and sagacity. The supremacy of law should be the foremost priority and can be had by true democracy.

Had General Ershad, who came to power in 1982, taken substantial measures to promote democracy earlier in Bangladesh, he would have been saved from the difficulties that he now has to face. With induction of an impartial man in the position of an interim president, the next positive step would be holding of general elections peacefully in Bangladesh.

Pakistan has already taken positive strides in the establishment of democracy here. In the past three years, two elections were held and public representatives given powers to rule and administer the country on sound lines. Having gone through this peaceful transformation to democracy and transfer of power to civilians chosen by a free vote, Pakistan wants a similar conducive environment to shape in its brotherly country, Bangladesh.

Pakistan has close relations with that country, which is part of the subcontinent. The dawn of democracy there is bound to give strength to peaceful conditions in the region. It could help democracy to flourish in the region. In this crucial hour of trial, the people of Pakistan pray for the success of their brothers in Bangladesh. The situation needs careful tackling and effective handling. Any lapse can cause a considerable setback. Elections should be given a fair deal and the chance to revive the spirit of the people. Their fate in democracy can be strengthened by a peaceful transfer of power to the elected representatives. Priority should be given to quick arrangements for holding of fair, free and impartial general elections in Bangladesh and the authorities there must take meaningful steps in this regard. The people of Bangladesh must offer their total cooperation in this regard rather than wasting time, energy, and resources in activities other than holding of the general elections.

Sharif Meets Ishaq Khan; Views Situation

BK1612151990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and reviewed matters pertaining to the regional situation with particular reference to relations with India and India-Pakistan secretary-level talks. The prime minister briefed the president on the background of the important decisions taken by the federal cabinet recently. He also apprised the president of the situation in Sindh and his impressions on it.

Reaction to Treatment of Indian Muslims

Jatoi Regrets Massacres

BK1712094290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] National People's Party Chairman Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has expressed regret over the massacre of Muslims in India and has appealed to democratic countries to use their good offices to prevent these brutal killings. In a statement in Karachi, he held the Indian government responsible for the atrocities against the Muslims.

Committee Notes Massacre

BK1612151590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs has taken a very serious note of the massacre of innocent Muslims in the communal riots in India. At its meeting in Islamabad today, the standing committee underlined the need for prompt international action for protecting the rights of the Muslims in India as provided in the Liaqat-Nehru accord. The committee urged the

government to raise this serious problem at appropriate organizations and forums before India totally annihilates its Muslim minority.

The committee also recommended the convening of a conference of eminent scholars and spiritual leaders so as to achieve solidarity and consensus on Islamic laws in view of the existing differences among various Islamic schools of thought.

Commentary Views Violence

BK1512113590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Commentary by political commentator: "Unabated Killing of Muslims in India"]

[Text] Pakistan has urged the Indian Government to take effective measures to stop communal violence and (?end) genocide of innocent Muslims that has been going on nonstop. These communal killings have taken a wild turn these days. During the past few days, hundreds of lives have been lost, and mostly of Muslims. Hundreds of persons have also been injured and scores of houses have been burned. Obviously, the major victims have been Muslims. Moreover, several thousand have been arrested and many of them have come to tortures. In this, Muslims have been the sole sufferers. Such a scale of violence against minority community—Muslims—could be under a preplanned scheme. It cannot be a case of an isolated event. The current year—1990—has been the worst in this regard. Inhuman killings have spread from occupied Jammu and Kashmir in north of India down to Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh in the south state. Such widespread killings of one community cannot take place without connivance of the law and order preserving machinery.

Pakistan has expressed its deep sorrow and anguish over Indian brutality against innocent Muslims living in India. Their only wrong is of being Muslims and no more. Claiming itself to be a secular state, what India is indulging in amply represents its (?chief) communal priority. Persistent bloodshedding of Muslims explodes India's myth of being a secular country devoted to democracy. Norms of democracy are distinctly different from what India has been practising all these years against her minorities like Muslims, Sikhs, and others. Recently, the issue raised by Hindu fundamentalists relates to Babri Masjid [disputed mosque]. Historical Society of India has already explained that there is no proof of Rama's birthplace to be at the present location of Babri Masjid. Hindu fundamentalists want to deny this historical fact in their hysteria and have made out of it a pretext to terrorize Muslims and [words indistinct] genocide. Widespread arson, looting, and driving Muslims out of their houses have become a day-to-day affair in India. Pakistan cannot sit silent on such a serious issue of depriving Muslims of their basic human rights. Simply to lodge protest is not enough. Pakistan must take this issue at international level. When human rights are denied and trampled by forces of evil, it leaves no scope for observing political decency and remaining silent. For protection of human rights, to speak is a compulsion. Pakistan has a great concern over what is happening in her neighborly country. Muslims living in India have their kith and kin in Pakistan. So, the anxiety of local population needs to be taken notice of.

Prevailing communal riots in India is not a favorable factor for peace in the subcontinent. Killings of Muslims in India provides ample proof of the Indian hypocrisy. India has become a monstrous machine engaged in efforts to annihilating Muslims. Sharp contradiction in words and action represents the height of deception. This cannot befool the world anymore. World community must take serious notice of ongoing genocide of Muslims in India and should come to their rescue. The case needs to be strongly taken up at the international level so that Muslims of India can be protected from atrocities being let loose by cruel Hindu majority. For good of the mankind and peaceful conditions of the subcontinent, India should take stern action against those who are playing with fire by fueling up communal feelings. Let the Muslims of India live in peace and harmony with honor. The Indian authorities must ensure their safety.

Minister Urges Determination To Help Kashmiris

BK1612153790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan, federal minister for Kashmir affairs, has reiterated the government's determination to provide all possible moral assistance to the people of occupied Kashmir in their struggle for realizing their right of self-determination. He said this during his meeting with the director of the Washington-based Kashmir-U.S. Council, Dr. Ghulam Nabi, in Islamabad today. The federal minister said all possible effort will be made to raise the Kashmir issue at international fora. He said all possible assistance will be provided for the rehabilitation of the refugees coming from occupied Kashmir.

Kashmir Leader Criticizes India on Violence

BK1612160790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front Chairman Amanullah Khan has said in view of the dogged determination and high morale of the Kashmiri people to fight till their last breath, India will have to vacate Kashmir. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the people cannot be subdued against their aspirations. He condemned the Indian troops for committing atrocities and violence on the Kashmiri freedom fighters and on the extremist Hindus for massacring Indian Muslims on the Babri mosque issue.

Agreement With Tokyo on Economic Cooperation

BK1412135590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Pakistan and Japan have agreed to increase bilateral cooperation in future in social sectors, basic economic structure, export-oriented industries, and agricultural development fields. This has been stated in documents signed in Islamabad yesterday after four-day talks between the Japanese delegation led by Toshiaki Muto, and the Pakistani delegation led by R.A. Akhund, the economic affairs division secretary. The two sides agreed that a task force comprising representatives of the two governments will work for increasing future economic cooperation. The two countries also agreed to take appropriate steps for effective utilization of development aid. During the talks, matters relating to improvement in various aspects of Japanese aid, reducing the impact of the Gulf crisis, and increasing Japanese aid to Pakistan to meet its growing development needs were also discussed.